CITY HILIGHTS

The Truth Speaks

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'India can't be a Dalal Nation'

LPG supplies on track, more ships arriving, India's energy security intact, diaspora's dafety remains priority, Centre tells all-party meeting on West Asia crisis implications for India

NEW DELHI

IRAN WAR DAY 27

The Centre on Wednesday assured political leaders across parties that India's energy position remains secure, even as tensions persist in West Asia. The assurance came during an all-party meeting that lasted for nearly 1 hour and 45 minutes.

The government emphasised that there is "enough energy security" in the country and current demand is being fully met. It also conveyed that advance procurement has been undertaken and discussions are ongoing with multiple nations to ensure continuity of supplies.

Efforts to diversify sourcing routes are also underway to minimise any potential disruption.

'Things are under control'

Responding to concerns raised by Opposition members regarding LPG availability and shipments via the Strait of Hormuz, the government stated that the situation is stable.

It informed participants that four vessels carrying supplies are expected to arrive within the next four to five days. Authorities reiterated that there is no shortage and adequate reserves are in place.

The government maintained that it is "on top of geopolitics" and not on the back foot, asserting that there is "nothing to worry" and no need for panic. It said it is taking everyone on board and remains open to discussions with the Opposition at any time.

Inside Modi-Trump phone call

The External Affairs Minister referred to the PM's last conversation with US President Donald Trump, conveying that the message was clear: the war should end, because it is hurting everybody.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh opened the floor for discussion, emphasising that people in India need to be taken care of. The Foreign Secretary made a presentation detailing the broader geopolitical situation, including developments related to Iran, the ongoing conflict, and energy security concerns.

India cannot act as a 'dalal': EAM

India cannot act as a "dalal nation" in global geopolitics, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said at the all-party meet on West Asia crisis. The minister's remarks came when Opposition raised concerns over Pakistan mediating talks between United States and Iran amid the ongoing conflict.

Reveals reason behind US strikes on Iran

Opposition leaders questioned the reasons behind the US and Israel's strikes on Iran. In response, the Foreign Secretary reportedly said Iran had assured it would not conduct nuclear testing but appeared to be moving in that direction, which prompted the attacks.

The Opposition also raised concerns that the Prime Minister's statement in the House regarding COVID was creating a sense of panic in the country. In response, the government said this is not correct, but added that if such a situation exists anywhere, it is being looked into.

All parties participated actively: Rijiju

Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju said all parties participated actively in the meeting and raised concerns over the ongoing conflict involving Iran, Israel and the United States, and its possible implications for India.

He added that opposition parties assured full support to the government in handling the situation. "All the opposition colleagues have said that in this hour of crisis, whatever decision the government takes, whatever steps it takes according to the prevailing situation, everyone will support it unitedly," he said, adding that the government had shared adequate information with all parties.

The meeting, chaired by Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, was held at Parliament and saw participation from top ministers including Home Minister Amit Shah, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri, and Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri.

Iran 'strikes' USS Abraham Lincoln

TEHRAN/JERUSALEM

Amid possibilities of peace talks between Iran and the US, tensions don't seem to take a rest between Israel and Iran. Both the countries ramped up strikes against each other, with Israeli Defence Minister Israel Katz saying the campaign would continue "at full intensity".

The Israeli military also stated that Iran fired dozens of missiles at Israel on the war's first and second days. However, added that this number "dropped quickly".

Tensions in the Gulf region escalated sharply on Wednesday after Iran's military claimed it launched coastal cruise missiles targeting the US Navy's aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN-72), while warning of more attacks if the vessel moves within range of its missile systems.

In a statement, the Iranian Army's public relations office stated its forces had targeted the carrier strike group with coastal cruise missiles. The announcement did not specify the extent of damage or whether the missiles reached their intended target.

The development comes amid heightened confrontation in the strategic waters of the Strait of Hormuz and the Persian Gulf, a region critical to global energy supplies.

Rear Admiral Shahram Irani, commander of the Iranian Navy, said the US carrier group is under constant surveillance and would face "crushing strikes" if it enters the operational range of Iranian missile systems. "Iranian naval forces are closely monitoring the movements of the Abraham Lincoln, and any hostile presence within missile range will be met with overwhelming force," he said, according to Iranian state media reports cited by Reuters.

Irani also asserted that Iran maintains "firm and effective control" over the Strait of Hormuz, emphasising what he described as the country's maritime dominance in the region. He added that Iranian forces are continuously tracking military vessels operating near its waters.

In strongly worded remarks, the navy chief said Iran would not back down in defending its interests, invoking national resolve and warning adversaries against escalation.

The USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN-72) is the 5th Nimitz-class aircraft carrier in the US Navy and forms a key part of Washington's military presence in the region.

More US troops in Middle East

The 82nd Airborne is considered the American Army's emergency response force, and is reportedly technically deployed on short notice. It would be the latest addition of US troops after officials last week said that thousands of Marines aboard several Navy ships would be heading to the Middle East. The 82nd Airborne troops are reportedly trained to parachute into hostile or contested territory to secure key territory and airfields.

4.26L passengers returned to India: MEA

NEW DELHI

Amid the West Asia conflict, 1,043 Indian nationals, including 717 students, have crossed out of Iran with the assistance of the mission in Tehran, the Ministry of External Affairs said on Wednesday. At an inter-ministerial briefing here on the West Asia situation, Aseem R Mahajan, Additional Secretary (Gulf), MEA, also said the overall flight situation continues to improve, and that around 4.26 lakh passengers have returned from the region to India since February 28. "During this period, 2,149 flights, including scheduled and non-scheduled flights of Indian as well as foreign carriers, have operated from the region to India," he said. The MEA said it continues to closely monitor the evolving situation in the Gulf and the West Asia region. "We are according the highest priority to ensure the safety, security, and well-being of the large Indian community in the region," Mahajan said.

> We are according the highest priority to ensure the safety, security, and well-being of the large Indian community in the region
> —Aseem R Mahajan, Addl Secy (Gulf), MEA

Iran rejects US peace deal, issues its own ceasefire proposal

Oil prices fall

Oil prices plunged more than 5% early on Wednesday after Trump reportedly sent a peace plan to Iran. Later in the day, oil prices stood at a lower trend of more than 4%. Brent crude futures fell 4% to $100.32 per barrel, while US West Texas Intermediate crude futures were down 3.4% to $89.24 per barrel.

TEHRAN

Iran on Wednesday rejected the 15-point ceasefire proposal by the United States aimed at ending the ongoing war, saying it will decide the timing and terms of any ceasefire, according to Iranian state media.

Citing an unidentified senior official, Iran's English-language broadcaster Press TV reported that Tehran had responded negatively to the US peace plan. "Iran has responded negatively to an American proposal aimed at ending the ongoing imposed war," the official said, adding that the conflict would end only on Iran's terms.

"No negotiations will be held prior to that… The end of the war will occur when Iran decides it should end, not when Trump envisions its conclusion," the official stated.

The official also laid out five key conditions for ending the war. These include a complete halt to what Iran described as "aggression and assassinations", as well as firm guarantees to ensure that hostilities are not resumed in the future. Tehran is also seeking clearly defined compensation for war damages and reparations.

The conditions further call for a complete end to the conflict across all fronts, including among allied groups in the Middle East region.

CCPA warns restaurants against levying 'Gas' or 'LPG' charges

NEW DELHI

In a stern warning to hotels and restaurants, the Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) on Wednesday said that levying additional charges such as 'LPG charges' or 'fuel cost recovery' amounts to an unfair trade practice, and strict action will be taken against violators. Noting that several complaints had been received against hotels and restaurants for adding such charges, the CCPA clarified that this practice violates the Consumer Protection Act, 2019. It stated that only applicable taxes can be added to the price mentioned on the menu.

Pak officials confirm receipt of 15-point ceasefire proposal

LAHORE

Two Pakistani officials reportedly confirmed that Iran received a 15-point ceasefire proposal from the Trump administration, aimed at ending the ongoing conflict in the Middle East region. The peace plan mentions sanctions relief, limits of Iran's nuclear programme, monitoring by the International Atomic Energy Agency, missile limits and access for ships through the Strait of Hormuz, a Pakistani official told agencies. The confirmation comes after reports of Trump sending the peace plan to Iran.

'No change in LPG refill rule, avoid panic buying'

NEW DELHI

Amid concerns over LPG supply due to the ongoing West Asia conflict, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has rejected claims that the waiting period between consecutive 14.2-kg cylinder refill bookings has been extended from 25 to 35 days.

In an official clarification, the ministry said reports circulating in sections of the media and on social platforms about changes in LPG refill norms are incorrect, adding that there has been no revision in the existing rules.

According to the ministry, the minimum gap between two refill bookings continues to be: 25 days in urban areas and 45 days in rural areas. It also urged consumers not to resort to panic booking, assuring that there is sufficient LPG supply to meet demand. The clarification follows widespread reports suggesting that the Centre had increased the refill gap to 35 days as part of measures to manage supply constraints. Some reports attributed the move to oil marketing companies, including Indian Oil.

Min: Over 3 cr fake accounts removed from IRCTC portal

NEW DELHI

Insisting that the Government is taking tough action against touts from selling train tickets, Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Wednesday said more than three crore fake accounts from the IRCTC portal have been removed so that genuine passengers get train tickets.

Asserting that the government's focus is to ensure comfortable and affordable services to the people, the minister also said that more than 75,000 special trains have been operated so far this financial year.

About running more trains during peak seasons, he said the government introduced more special trains compared to the UPA government, the Minister said in his reply during Question Hour in Lok Sabha.

Around 70% of the coaches in trains are general and sleeper coaches while 78% seats are in the non-AC categories, he said.

The minister also said that due to focus on railway safety, consequential accidents have come down 90%.

TECH TITANS

'B'luru, Hyd power half of India's urban growth momentum'

BENGALURU

The two southern tech hubs--Bengaluru and Hyderabad--now power over half of India's urban growth momentum, reshaping jobs, consumption, mobility and the future of Indian cities, according to a data released on Wednesday.

Together, the two cities accounted for about 53% of all Grade A office space added across India's top cities in the last five years, the "WeAreCity 2026" report stated.

The findings are part of "WeAreCity 2026", the second edition of UnboxingBLR's flagship data report on Indian cities, unveiled at the Indiaspora Global AI Summit 2026 here.

Titled "A Tale of Two Cities", UnboxingBLR said in a statement that the report presents a data-led comparison of Bengaluru and Hyderabad, India's two fastest-growing tech hubs that are increasingly challenging the economic dominance of Delhi NCR and Greater Mumbai. Despite having significantly smaller populations than Delhi NCR and Greater Mumbai, the two cities are "punching far above their weight", it said.

"They (Bengaluru and Hyderabad) have contributed nearly 50% of new domestic flight movements among India's top eight cities in just the last two year. In 2024-25, one in every four new companies formed across India's major cities was registered in either Bengaluru or Hyderabad. This is not incremental growth, it is structural momentum," the report stated.

While both cities are anchored by technology-led growth, the data highlights sharp contrasts in how they function, grow and behave. Bengaluru continues to lead as India's startup capital, with an edge in startups, funding, innovation output and emerging tech jobs. It also shows higher bank deposits and mutual fund participation, indicating greater disposable income and financial maturity.

Hyderabad, meanwhile, is emerging rapidly as a Global Capability Centre (GCC) hub, narrowing the gap with Bengaluru in enterprise tech jobs. It has recorded faster growth in retail credit and housing loans, signalling a city still building core assets.

Both cities dominate entry-level hiring across IT, manufacturing, pharma and BFSI sectors, outpacing Delhi and Mumbai combined in several segments, it said. Bengaluru led the Workforce Pull Index, followed by Greater Mumbai and Delhi NCR.

QUICK READ

Congress leader Gopalakrishna Naik attacked with knife

Karwar

A shocking attack took place on Congress leader Gopalakrishna Naik near Keni in Ankola taluk of Uttara Kannada district. While he was travelling in his car, miscreants arriving in a Goa-registered vehicle blocked his path. They first beat him with a rod and then stabbed him with a knife. He sustained serious injuries on his head and neck. The seriously injured leader was immediately rushed to a private hospital in Ankola, where his condition is reported to be critical. Police visited the spot for inspection and have registered a case at Ankola police station. A search is underway to trace the accused who fled from the scene.

Passenger Falls Seriously Ill on City Bus, Swift Help Saves Life

Udupi

Santosh (45), a resident of Kundapura, became seriously unwell while travelling in a private city bus from Manipal to Udupi. As the bus reached near MGM, he started vomiting blood and his condition deteriorated rapidly. The bus owners immediately informed social worker Nityananda Olakadu, who arrived at the city bus stand in an ambulance and shifted Santosh to the district hospital. Bus operator Ganesh Prabhu and some college students who were present at the spot actively helped in the rescue operation.

Former Ganiga Sangha President Dies in Bike Collision

Kundapura

A fatal road accident occurred on National Highway 66 at Talluru in Kundapura on Tuesday night when two bikes crashed into each other. Srinivas Ganiga (68), former president of the Kundapura Taluk Ganiga Sangha, sustained severe injuries in the collision and was rushed to Manipal Hospital, but doctors declared him dead on arrival. Srinivas Ganiga had been an active worker in the Panchayat Raj rights movement and had served for 15 years in the Namma Bhoomi voluntary organisation. He is survived by his wife LalithaGaniga, former president of Hattiyangadi Gram Panchayat, and two children.

New Konkani Roman Missal unveiled in Mangaluru, to be implemented from June 7

The Diocese of Mangalore has unveiled a new Konkani Roman Missal after years of translation work, marking a major milestone for the Catholic community. Announced by Bishop Peter Paul Saldanha, the Missal will be implemented from June 7, alongside supporting publications aimed at enhancing understanding and participation in liturgical practices.

MANGALURU

The Diocese of Mangalore on Wednesday officially unveiled the newly translated Konkani Roman Missal at a diocesan function held at St Anthony's Charity Institutes, Jeppu.

The launch took place during the opening session of the Annual Pastoral Consultation and was presided over by Bishop Peter Paul Saldanha, who also chairs the Commission for Liturgy in Konkani.

The diocesan release follows the national-level launch of the Missal earlier this year at the Conference of Catholic Bishops of India meeting in Bengaluru.

Speaking on the occasion, Bishop Saldanha announced that the new Missal will come into effect in the diocese from June 7, coinciding with the feast of Corpus Christi. He noted that the original Latin musical formats have been retained and no new tones are to be introduced for specific liturgical parts.

Along with the Missal, three companion publications were also released, including a booklet for liturgical responses, a Konkani guide explaining the Mass, and an English resource on the sacrament of marriage.

Several clergy members and church officials, including Vicar General Msgr Maxim L. Noronha and Chancellor Dr Victor George D'Souza, were present.

The translation and compilation project, which spanned over a decade, involved contributions from priests and scholars across regions including Mangaluru, Udupi, Karwar, Goa and Sindhudurg.

Five Groundnut Varieties Shortlisted for Coastal Karnataka After Field Trials in Udupi

UDUPI

Farmers and scientists gathered in Kotu Manuru to evaluate 33 groundnut varieties and selected five promising ones suited to the coastal region based on yield and growth performance.

A discussion between farmers and scientists was held on March 24 at Jayaram Shetty's farmland in Kotu Manuru, Udupi district, to identify suitable groundnut varieties for the coastal region. Thirty-three varieties from the state and outside were experimentally planted in Manuru to discover the best one for Udupi district.

Plant breeder Sridevi Jakkeral spoke about the disappointment faced by farmers due to the shortage of quality groundnut seeds. She explained that the Agriculture and Horticulture Department, Udupi Agriculture Department and Raithadhvani organisation jointly initiated the trial to find a suitable variety.

The selection focused on yield, taste, pod filling and weight. Farmers currently prefer TMV-2, so similar varieties were chosen for testing. Farmers expressed the need for varieties that mature in 85-90 days because groundnut is sown after paddy and must be harvested before the monsoon.

They also demanded a proper market system and storage facilities so that the produce can be stored and sold when prices are favourable.

According to sources, among the 33 varieties, farmers showed strong preference for five TMV-2 like lines – T-1, T-2, T-3, T-4 and DG-91 – and recommended them for further research. Scientists noted that Udupi groundnut gives 20-25 quintals per acre with superior taste compared to 10-15 quintals in other districts, and suggested creating an Udupi groundnut brand that could gain global recognition.

The selected varieties are still in the preliminary stage. Scientists said it may take up to five years for seeds to reach farmers after advanced trials, but farmers urged faster release to prevent further decline in groundnut cultivation.

Officials assured efforts to make seeds available within one or two years. On the occasion, a handbook introducing suitable groundnut varieties was released.

MP Raises Coastal Concerns in Lok Sabha Finance Bill Debate

MANGALURU/ NEW DELHI

Dakshina Kannada MP Capt. Brijesh Chowta spoke during the debate on the Finance Bill in the Lok Sabha and drew the House's attention to financial discipline, tax reforms, national security, cooperative federalism and the welfare of ex-servicemen.

He praised the GST reforms introduced by the Central government under Prime Minister Narendra Modi for strengthening the economy and reducing taxes on daily-use items, thereby helping ordinary families. He welcomed the simplified income tax structure, saying it would bring greater clarity and confidence to taxpayers.

Viewing the Budget not merely as an economic document but also from the perspective of national security, Capt. Chowta said a strong economy is the foundation for modernising the armed forces. He welcomed the increased allocation for the defence sector and the push for indigenous defence production.

He appealed to the Finance Minister to extend disability pension benefits to soldiers who suffer serious injuries during service but continue in duty until retirement out of sheer dedication.

On cooperative federalism, the MP pointed out that timely implementation by state governments is crucial for Central schemes to reach common people. He expressed regret that in Karnataka, due to the state government's uncooperative attitude and delay tactics, funds under Jal Jeevan Mission and Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana remain unutilised, depriving poor families of drinking water and housing.

Capt. Chowta expressed serious concern over severe coastal erosion in Ullal and Someshwara areas of Dakshina Kannada, calling it an existential threat rather than a temporary problem. He demanded that the Centre, in coordination with the Environment and Geology Ministries, prepare a comprehensive scientific coastal protection project and release special funds for permanent solutions.

He urged the immediate merger of Konkan Railway with Indian Railways to resolve its structural issues and ensure full development of the ambitious project conceived during George Fernandes' time.

Emphasising infrastructure and logistics development for Dakshina Kannada, the MP stressed the need to improve road connectivity for the New Mangalore Port, which is celebrating its 50th year, to utilise its full capacity.

He requested faster progress on the Mangaluru–Bengaluru Expressway corridor and Mangaluru Bypass, thanked the Railway Minister for approving the DPR for the ShiradiGhat section of the Hassan–Mangaluru railway line, and demanded early commencement of works.

He also appealed to the Finance Minister to give priority to Mangaluru under the Centre's 'City Economic Region' scheme.

Former Deputy Chief Minister K.S. Eshwarappa and several environmental groups have begun an indefinite day-and-night protest to stop the environmentally harmful Sharavathi pumped storage project.

Round-the-Clock Dharna Launched Against Sharavathi Pumped Storage Project

SHIVAMOGGA

A 24-hour dharna opposing the Sharavathi pumped storage project commenced on March 24 under the joint banner of Rashtrabhakta Balaga, Namma Parisara and various environmental organisations, led by former Deputy Chief Minister K.S. Eshwarappa.

Inaugurating the protest, Sri Maruti Guruji of Sri Kshetra Bangaramakki stated that the fight is not for the present generation but for the future. He stressed that unity is difficult yet essential and declared that the project, being against nature, must be stopped.

He pointed out that seven dams already exist on the Sharavathi and the new project would reverse the river's natural westward flow to the sea by diverting water eastward. Electricity would be generated near Begodi by pumping water in the opposite direction through tunnels only.

Guruji criticised all governments for changing stance after coming to power. He recalled that the project was first proposed in 2001 at a cost of ₹2,022 crore, faced opposition in 2008, was reviewed again in 2011, proposed for implementation in 2017, and reached ₹10,450 crore by 2023, with 10% of the money already distributed.

He warned that willpower, knowledge power and state power must unite for any struggle to succeed. He questioned why the pumped storage component is needed when wind power is also being added and criticised the plan to borrow money from Germany, pushing the cost to ₹15,000–16,000 crore.

The project would destroy between 16,000 and 50,000 trees as per the pariveshan portal and includes a plan to supply Sharavathi water to Bengaluru. He noted that while 38 projects are coming up in the Western Ghats, only Aghnashini, Agumbe and Sharavathi pumped storage are visible to the public.

Former MLA Mahima Patel said protecting the Western Ghats is the duty of every citizen and a government with conscience is needed. Former MLA A.T. Ramaswamy called the 24-hour satyagraha symbolic, reminding that the Western Ghats are one of UNESCO's eight World Heritage Sites. He warned that the project would kill 64,000 trees and cause 60% land subsidence, destroying the livelihood of Western Ghats people.

K.S. Eshwarappa reiterated that the project would not be allowed under any circumstances and demanded that both Central and State governments immediately scrap it. K.E. Kantesh demanded that Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and K.J. George be jailed for the project and warned that failure to stop it would turn the gateway of Malnad into a Rajasthan-like desert.

On March 29, a major public meeting, signature campaign and Sahyadri Jnana and Protection Convention will be held at Bangaramakki to create awareness about the ill-effects of the project.

Dalit Sangharsha Samiti Calls for Correction of Roster Defects and Proper Implementation of SC Sub-Quota

SHIVAMOGGA

M. Gurumurthy, State Convenor of the Karnataka Dalit Sangharsha Samiti, strongly demanded that the state government correct the defects in the current roster points before implementing internal reservation for Scheduled Castes and filling the 56,432 vacant posts.

Addressing the media in Shivamogga, he explained that due to court stay orders, the government had to bring down the total reservation from 56% to 50%. This resulted in the SC reservation being reduced from 24% to 18%, causing an overall 6% loss to SCs and STs. The government has now further reduced the SC quota from 17% to 15%.

He reiterated that the roster errors must be rectified and the 15% SC sub-quota must be implemented strictly according to the law. He urged the government to ensure that all 101 Scheduled Castes get their due share of reservation based on population after fixing the roster points.

Gurumurthy accused former Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai of failing to request Prime Minister Narendra Modi to include the sub-quota under the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution, thereby committing injustice to the Scheduled Castes.

He asked why Karnataka cannot implement internal reservation when it is already in force in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. He called upon the state Cabinet meeting scheduled for March 27 to take a firm decision on this matter. He also appealed to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to lead an all-party delegation to the Prime Minister and demand inclusion of the sub-quota in the Ninth Schedule.

If the government fails to act, the Dalit SangharshaSamiti will organise statewide agitations against the government, he cautioned.

Prominent members present included M. Elukoti, Shivabasappa, B.A. Katke, Prof. Chandrappa Jog, Ramesh Chikkamaradi, Hanumanthappa Yadaval, Jagadish Churchigundi, Basavaraj Hasavi and Krishna Bommanakatte.

Vandse Gram Panchayat Nominated for Award in 'Healthy Gram Panchayat' Category

UDUPI

Vandse Gram Panchayat has earned a nomination for the National Panchayat Award in the 'Healthy Gram Panchayat' segment under the theme of Sustainable Development Goals.

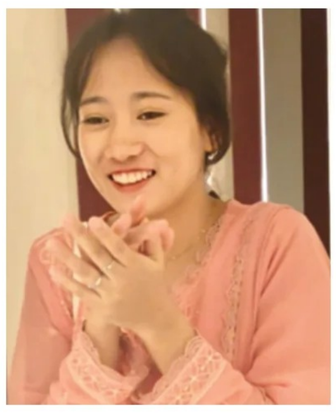
The Union Ministry of Panchayat Raj gives these awards in nine different categories. Out of 2.68 lakh Gram Panchayats across India, only 55 have made it to the final list, and Vandse Gram Panchayat is one of them.

The panchayat has already drawn attention for its solid waste management unit. It has also become the first in the state to establish a 'Community Palliative Care Centre' through Niramaya Society, which has brought further recognition at the state level.

A team of senior officials from the Union Ministry of Panchayat Raj visited the panchayat for the final round of evaluation for the award.

WORKPLACE HARASSMENT

Young Woman from Nagaland Dies by Suicide After Alleged Workplace Harassment



CHIKKAMAGALURU

A 22-year-old woman named Linsula from Nagaland was found dead under suspicious circumstances in Aravindnagar, Chikkamagaluru city, on Wednesday. Her body was discovered hanging at her residence. She had been working at a resort in the area.

According to preliminary investigations, Linsula had spoken to a person identified as Kivishe Kinimi for about half an hour prior to the incident. A diary belonging to the deceased has emerged as a key piece of evidence. In it, she reportedly named two men, Rajesh and Tejas, alleging that they had been constantly harassing her.

The diary entries detail that Rajesh and Tejas were pressuring Linsula for a relationship and subjecting her to persistent physical and mental harassment under the pretext of love. She described the ordeal as becoming unbearable while working at the resort.

Linsula had left her hometown with dreams of building a better life and making a living to support her family. She bore significant responsibilities, including caring for her parents and managing their health issues. Despite the harassment, she continued working, fearing the loss of her job and salary, according to notes in her diary.

A woman named Lashila Inchugar, also from Nagaland and connected to Linsula, filed a complaint at the Basavanahalli police station against Rajesh and Tejas, alleging harassment.

Police visited the spot, sent the body for post-mortem, and seized the diary as evidence. Linsula's family in Nagaland has been informed of the tragedy. Further investigation is underway. More details are expected to emerge as the probe continues.

QUICK READ

M'luru-Chennai Superfast Mail Rescheduled Due to Pairing Train Delay

Mangaluru

Southern Railway had announced a two-hour delay in the departure of Train No. 12602, the Mangaluru Central – Dr MGR Chennai Central Superfast Mail on Wednesday. The train, originally scheduled to depart Mangaluru Central at 13:55 hrs, left at 15:55 hrs on March 25, 2026. The rescheduling was due to the late running of its pairing train. Passengers were requested to plan their journey accordingly and check for any further updates.

MCC Health Officers Conduct On-Site Inspection

Mangaluru

In response to a public complaint, health officers from the Mangaluru City Corporation (MCC) visited Ambikanagar on Tuesday and carried out a thorough on-site inspection. The officials arrived at the location to directly assess and address the grievance raised by a local resident. The visit underscores the corporation's commitment to prompt action on civic health-related issues reported by the public. During the inspection, the team interacted with residents and examined the concerned area as part of routine health department duties.

Head-On Collision Sparks Driver Fistfight

Vittla

A KSRTC bus traveling from Pakalakunja to Vittla collided head-on with a tipper lorry heading towards Peruvayi at Muchchirapadavu in Vittla. Fortunately, none of the passengers in the bus suffered any injuries in the accident. Following the crash, a heated argument broke out between the bus driver and the tipper driver, which quickly escalated into a physical fight. The bus conductor, Prashanth, was injured during the incident and has been admitted to the government hospital in Vittla. Police have registered complaints and counter-complaints in connection with the episode.

Rider killed as bike rams tree near Kolchar bus stop

Sullia

A man from the region lost his life in a late-night road accident after his motorcycle rammed into a tree near Kolchar bus stop in Aleti village. The deceased has been identified as Sridhar (38). The incident came to light after his brother, Radhakrishna P.M. (49) from Kasaragod, was alerted by a known person about the mishap. On reaching the spot, Radhakrishna found his brother critically injured and immediately shifted him to the Sullia Government Hospital. Despite efforts, doctors confirmed that he had succumbed to his injuries. Preliminary investigation suggests that the accident occurred due to loss of control of the motorcycle, allegedly caused by rash riding, leading to a collision with a roadside tree. Sullia police have registered a case under relevant provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, and are probing the incident.

Free HPV vaccination drive: MP calls for participation in Dakshina Kannada

HPV vaccination for early teen girls is inevitable, MP Chowta urges families to get their girl children vaccinated.

MANGALURU

Dakshina Kannada MP Capt. Brijesh Chowta has appealed to parents and adolescent girls to actively participate in the Centre's free HPV vaccination campaign aimed at preventing cervical cancer among women.

Highlighting the importance of the initiative spearheaded by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the MP said the programme is a milestone in strengthening preventive healthcare for young girls.

He urged all girls aged between 14 and 15 years in the district to get vaccinated without hesitation and called on parents to prioritise their children's health by ensuring timely immunisation.

Dakshina Kannada has set a target of covering 22,473 girls under the campaign. The state has already been supplied with 2.54 lakh doses of the HPV vaccine, which is being provided free under the National Health Mission, unlike private facilities where the cost can go up to Rs 8,000.

The vaccination programme is being conducted across government health facilities, including PHCs and community health centres, and will continue till the end of May.

Emphasising awareness, the MP said health department staff and grassroots workers must work to eliminate myths and encourage participation in both rural and urban areas.

Eligible beneficiaries can either pre-register through the U-WIN platform or walk into designated centres for vaccination. Parental consent remains mandatory.

Barke police trace absconder in 2009 copyright case, court remands him

MANGALURU

Riyaz booked in 2009 had absconded, caught by police on Wednesday. Charged for copyright act violation.

In a significant breakthrough, Barke police have secured the arrest of a man who had been on the run for nearly 17 years in a copyright infringement case.

The accused, Riyaz, was booked in 2009 under Sections 52(a) and 63 of the Copyright Act at Barke Police Station. After repeatedly failing to appear before the court, the case was classified as a long-pending case (LPC 79/2016) in 2016.

Despite prolonged efforts, the accused had managed to evade arrest for years. However, acting on fresh leads, police officials tracked him down and took him into custody on March 24.

He was subsequently produced before the court, which ordered his judicial remand.

Players from all 11 major ports will vie for the all India Major ports volleyball championship.

NMPA hosts All India Major Ports volleyball, beach volleyball tournaments

MANGALURU

The New Mangalore Port Authority (NMPA) kicked off the All India Major Ports Volleyball and Beach Volleyball Tournaments 2025–26 with a formal inauguration at its Sports Complex and Panambur Beach on Tuesday evening.

Deputy Chairperson Smt. S. Shanthi inaugurated the tournament at 5 pm in the presence of senior officials, including Chief Vigilance Officer Padmanabhachar K. and NMP Sports Council President Capt. Manoj Joshi. Teams from major ports across India are participating in the event.

Scheduled from March 24 to 27, the tournament promises exciting contests while strengthening bonds and team spirit among port employees nationwide.

The event is also aimed at promoting a culture of fitness and sports within port communities, with beach volleyball matches adding a vibrant coastal dimension to the competition.

HC rules in favour of temporary employees of Dist office

MANGALURU

Bringing closure to a decades-long struggle, the Karnataka High Court has ordered the regularisation of four women employees from Dakshina Kannada, long after they had retired from service.

The women were appointed in 1986 as part of the rollout of Nadakacheri services and continued to work for years on a daily wage basis. However, despite being eligible, their services were never regularised by the administration.

The situation was further complicated after the implementation of the Karnataka Daily Wage Employees Welfare Act, 2012, under which they were granted limited job security but denied the full benefits of permanent employees. A clerical error reportedly placed them in the wrong category, costing them their rightful status.

With support from the Citizen Rights Foundation, the employees approached the court. Over a series of rulings, the High Court upheld their claims, including a key judgment in favour of Gulabi of Mangaluru.

Further relief followed for Sathyashankari of Bantwal and Sumati Bai of Moodbidri, with the latest order passed on March 24, directing regularisation.

Reacting to the verdict, foundation president K.A. Paul termed the prolonged denial of justice a failure of administration but said the court's intervention had restored faith in the system.

The case highlights the plight of daily wage workers who continue to battle bureaucratic hurdles despite decades of service.

Voters threaten to boycott elections citing bad roads

SULLIA

People living in Baitadka village of Jalluru Gram Panchayat have installed banners accusing authorities of neglecting road development for the past 25 years.

The roads connecting Baitadka to Rudrachamundeshwari temple, Baitadka to Hosagadde, and Baitadka to Kaligundi in Ward 2 and 3 of Jalluru Gram Panchayat reportedly remain undeveloped. Elderly citizens, differently-abled persons, devotees visiting the temple, and school-going children face daily hardship and danger while using these roads.

The banners, put up in the name of residents of Baitadka, Hosagadde and Kaligundi, carry the message "No development, no vote" and demand that roads be improved before elections. Similar election boycott banners have already appeared in multiple places across Sullia taluk, including Balugodu, Shantinagar in Sullia, Kirlaya in Aranthodu, Madappadi and Ajjavara.

Through these banners, villagers are reminding political parties of their responsibilities and warning them.

Absconding theft accused arrested, sentenced to one year imprisonment

SULLIA

An absconding accused in a theft case registered in 2018 at Sullia Police Station has been arrested and sentenced to imprisonment.

Police said the case (Crime No. 25/2018) was registered under Section 379 of the IPC against Ashwan Gowda J.P., a resident of Tumakuru. During trial, the offence was proven, and the court had earlier released him under the Probation of Offenders Act.

However, the accused later failed to appear before the court and went absconding, leading to the issuance of a warrant.

On March 24, 2026, a team from Subrahmanya Police Station, comprising Head Constable Mahesh and Police Constable Kiran, traced and apprehended the accused at Gungurumale in Tumakuru district.

He was produced before the Principal Civil Judge and JMFC Court in Sullia, where Judge Shivanna H.R. sentenced him to one year simple imprisonment under Section 380 of IPC and imposed a fine of Rs 1,000. In default of payment, he will undergo an additional 10 days of imprisonment.

Assistant Public Prosecutor Preethi M.C. represented the prosecution.

Over 500 Girls Vaccinated Against Cervical Cancer in District So Far

MANGALURU

The national Human Papilloma Virus vaccination drive, launched by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare on February 28, is progressing steadily in Dakshina Kannada district. District Health Officer Dr. H.R. Timmayya stated that 527 girls have received the vaccine till now.

The three-month campaign targets girls who have completed 14 years but not yet reached 15 years of age. Officials have set a goal to cover one percent of the district's population, which translates to vaccinating 22,473 girls in total.

Speaking at a press conference held at the district health and family welfare office, Dr.Timmayya highlighted that cervical cancer claimed 34,805 lives out of 79,103 new cases detected across the country in 2022.

He emphasised that this is a preventable cancer through vaccination and urged all eligible girls to come forward and receive the shot. The state has received 2.54 lakh doses of the HPV vaccine, and sufficient stock is available to meet the district's requirements.

Survey shows rising cancer awareness, but late diagnosis remains a concern

MANGALURU

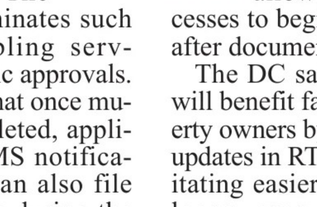
A recent survey on cancer awareness in coastal Karnataka has revealed encouraging levels of public knowledge, while highlighting the persistent challenge of late diagnosis.

The survey report, released by MLC Ivan D'Souza, was conducted by Sanjeevini Cancer Seva Trust in collaboration with Mangalore Institute of Oncology.

Addressing the gathering, D'Souza said fear and misconceptions continue to surround cancer, often leading patients to assume the worst. He emphasised that awareness and timely medical intervention can significantly improve outcomes.

The survey covered 10,948 participants from diverse backgrounds and examined awareness levels, myths, and barriers related to cancer prevention and early detection.

According to Dr Suresh Rao, Director of the institute, more than 90 per cent of respondents were aware of the link between tobacco use and cancer. Many also recognised the importance of early diagnosis and the non-communicable nature of the disease.



Despite this, a major concern remains that patients often approach doctors only after symptoms become severe, reducing the effectiveness of treatment.

Dr Rao also highlighted positive trends, including increased awareness about self-examination and healthy lifestyle practices.

He said the institute, established in 2011, has grown into a 120-bed super-speciality cancer centre offering comprehensive and affordable care, supported by advanced technology and expert oncology teams.

The programme was attended by several dignitaries, including Walter Nandalike and medical professionals from the region.

RSC –INNOVATION FAIR 2026

Innovation Fair 2026 at Pilikula Regional Science Centre

MANGALURU

The Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of Karnataka, has invited aspiring innovators, students, and young minds to participate in the Innovation Fair 2026, a platform designed to spark creativity and showcase groundbreaking ideas.

The event will be held at the Pilikula Regional Science Centre in Mangaluru. A key highlight includes a Technical Talk scheduled for 31st March 2026. Interested participants are encouraged to register at the earliest, with the deadline set for 28th March 2026.

This government-backed initiative aims to provide a vibrant platform for innovators to demonstrate their models, share inventive projects, and inspire others. Organizers have urged participants to "innovate, demonstrate, and inspire" as part of the fair, fostering a culture of innovation, startups, and technology among Karnataka's youth.

For more details and registration, participants can refer to the official announcement from DST Karnataka or scan the QR code provided in the event poster.

The fair is expected to bring together brilliant minds and witness exciting ideas come to life under the #InnovationFair2026 initiative.

The new digital system helps solves contentious land mutation issues in Uttara Kannada

KARWAR

Uttara Kannada Deputy Commissioner Lakshmipriya has said that more than 900 land mutation cases have been automatically approved in the district following the introduction of the new automated mutation software.

She said a total of 1,77,450 mutations have been recorded in the system so far, as part of efforts to ensure transparency, efficiency and timely updates in land records through digital governance initiatives such as the Bhoomi platform and revenue court case management systems.

The automated system, launched on February 24, enables mutation approvals without human intervention after the statutory notice periods of seven days (for registered cases such as sale, partition and gift) and 15 days (for unregistered cases) are completed.

Earlier, revenue inspectors had to manually approve mutations using digital signatures after the notice period, leading to delays in disposal of applications. The new system eliminates such delays by enabling server-based automatic approvals.

Officials said that once mutations are completed, applicants receive SMS notifications. Citizens can also file objections online during the notice period through login access provided to both officials and the public.

If objections are raised, the case is transferred to the tahsildar's court for further proceedings.

The system also ensures that any change in land records triggers SMS alerts to linked mobile numbers, helping prevent fraud. Integration with sub-registrar offices allows mutation processes to begin automatically after document registration.

The DC said the initiative will benefit farmers and property owners by enabling faster updates in RTC records, facilitating easier access to bank loans, crop insurance and government subsidies.

QUICK READ

Auto driver held for dumping woman's body in garbage

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
The Kengeri police have arrested autorickshaw driver Basavegowda in connection with the incident where a woman was hit by an autorickshaw on Sunday night and threw her into a garbage dump instead of taking her to a hospital. On Sunday night, a 55-year-old woman was hit by an autorickshaw driven by Basavegowda. Believing that he would be admitted to the hospital after the accident, he threw the injured Kempamma into a garbage dump near Kengeri and fled. Locals found the woman's body in a garbage dump on Monday and informed the police. The Kengeri police visited the spot and started an investigation. Basavegowda has been arrested in connection with the inhuman act of throwing the injured woman into a garbage dump. Police said the accused is likely to be produced in court on Wednesday and remanded in custody for further interrogation.

Man stabs sister for refusing to send his wife him

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
In a shocking incident, a man who was married to his sister's daughter stabbed his sister to death in the city. The accused, who was married to his sister's daughter, allegedly committed the act after his sister Maheshwari (55) refused to send his daughter with him. A case has been registered at Adugodi police station.

Sudha Raghunathan receives Ram Seva Mandali Award

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
Singer Sudha Raghunathan has been selected for the National Award presented by the Sri Rama Seva Mandali Trust on the occasion of the SVN Memorial Annual Music Festival. The trust is organising a music festival at the SVAN Memorial Hall in Nettigere village on March 28, April 4, 11 and 18. The award ceremony will be held on Aplril 28 and former ISRO Chairman K Radhakrishnan, S Somnath, Brigade Group President MR Jayashankar and SDME Society Vice President Surendra Kumar Hegde will participate as guests, the release said.

Clean treatment: BWSSB to pump up 20 of 34 STPs by year-end

In a move to upgrade sewage infrastructure, the Board is upgrading multiple rehabilitated sewage treatment plants across Bengaluru city

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

In a move to upgrade sewage infrastructure, the Bengaluru Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) is upgrading multiple rehabilitated Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) across the city.

The focus is on enhancing the capacity and efficiency of existing STPs in both the East and West zones. Of 34 existing STPs, 20 have been taken up under the National Green Tribunal norms among which seven are at a cost of around Rs 33.4 crore and are expected to be completed by the end of this year.

These rehabilitation projects cover plants in Shivajinagar, Mahadevapura, KR Puram and Dasarahalli with capacities ranging from 2 MLD to 60 MLD, with four in the East zone and three in the West zone.

In the East, plants at Ulsoor (2 MLD), Kadugodi (6 MLD), K&C Valley (60 MLD) and Yellamallappashetty lake (15 MLD) are being upgraded, while in the West, STPs at Chikkabanavara (5 MLD), Seegehalli–K&C Valley (40 MLD) and Nagasandra (20 MLD) are under rehabilitation. Officials said the rehabilitation works include modernisation of old infrastructure, upgrading treatment processes and ensuring compliance with environmental standards.

BWSSB chairman Ram Prasanth Manohar said rehabilitation essentially means upgrading older sewage treatment plants to meet the revised standards set by the National Green Tribunal in 2018. To meet these parameters, they are adding a tertiary treatment stage to existing plants. While the conventional system, primary clarifier, aeration tank and secondary clarifier, remains, an additional unit in the form of a disc filter is being installed. This acts as a physical filtration step before chlorination, significantly improving the final treated water quality. Since these are brownfield projects, upgrades are being carried out in phases without shutting down operations, which makes execution more challenging, he added.

Alongside the rehabilitation works, BWSSB is also rolling out new STPs in the CE (Project) zone to cater to growing urban settlements. Each project, costing between Rs 10 crore and Rs 39 crore, is designed to meet increasing sewage treatment demand in rapidly developing localities. The new STPs are expected to be operational by 2028, with progress already nearing 100 percent in some locations. Financially, these projects are also on track, with significant expenditure already made towards their completion.

Memorial demand for Dr Reddy to be examined: Khandre

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Forest Minister Ishwar Khandre told the Assembly that the family of Dr Samiksha Reddy, a young veterinarian who died in a hippopotamus attack at the Tavarekoppa Tiger and Lion Sanctuary in Shivamogga district, has suggested that a memorial be built in the Bannerghatta National Park or elsewhere in the name of the deceased, and that this has been accepted.

Responding to a request to draw the attention of Shivamogga MLA Channabasappa, he said that the tragedy took place within a few days of joining duty. I met the family of the deceased and offered my condolences.

At that time, the government had offered a compensation of Rs 30 lakh. But the family members requested that no compensation be given and a memorial be built at Bannerghatta or another zoo. He said that the government will consider building a memorial in the coming days.

The young doctor was enthusiastic. He had previously treated and saved a leopard at the zoo. On the night of the incident, he had gone on duty to administer antibiotics to a bird, along with two colleagues. After treating the bird, the incident took place when he went to check on the health of a narwhal that was in a separate enclosure. The Forest Minister clarified that if any of our officials had made false statements against the doctor, disciplinary action would be taken against them.

'Probe into case on'

A high-level investigation has been ordered into this case, and the Forest Department is also investigating. The police are also investigating. CCTV footage, messages on their mobile phones will all be investigated. Action will be taken if anyone is found to have lapses in duty, said Ishwara Khandre.

34% OF 72L HOMES DON'T HAVE TAP WATER: CAG

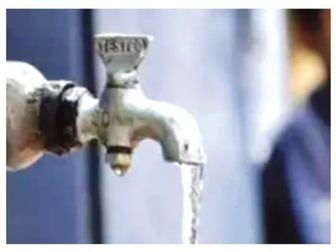
BENGALURU

Karnataka has failed to provide tap water connections to 24.5 lakh rural households or 34 percent of the targeted 72.1 lakh, well past the March 2024 deadline under Jal Jeevan Mission, according to a Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) report tabled in the legislative assembly.

The audit, covering 2019 to 2024 across seven districts, flagged gaps in planning, execution, financial management and water quality monitoring, undermining the mission's goal of ensuring Har Ghar Jal.

At the state level, irregular participation by departments affected convergence with schemes like Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) and Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana. Though some villages proposed convergence strategies, none were implemented.

Delays in project execution further hit outcomes. The audit cited poor planning, including awarding contracts without ensuring land availability, flawed DPRs and overburdened contractors. Some projects were abandoned midway despite substantial expenditure, while others failed to take off for years. The report also flagged weak post-implementation management and over-dependence on groundwater sources, raising sustainability concerns.



The state was heavily reliant on groundwater sources for water supply, posing the risk of unsustainability in the long run. The department's efforts to include sustainable measures such as recharge of groundwater through conservation and reuse of water resources, and grey water management, were inadequate, the report noted. Despite limited broader impact on public health and employment, the report said JJM did register gains on select social indicators. The mission helped ease the burden on women and contributed to reducing the dropout rate among upper primary school girls from 2.3 to 1.5 by 2023–24. The implementation of JJM through improved household water access is one of the contributing factors in reducing the average dropout rate of upper primary school girls as it reduced the time and burden on girls for water collection. Similarly, several women highlighted savings in time and labour which was diverted to other domestic work, self-care or economic opportunities. Further, many women flagged increased safety as the mission reduced the risk of crime or wild animal attacks during long water-fetching journeys, the report pointed out.

Charging extra for LPG delivery illegal: Minister

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Gas supply agencies cannot compel consumers to pay extra for doorstep delivery of LPG cylinders, state government has clarified, urging the public to report such incidents. Food, Civil Supplies, Consumer Affairs and Legal Metrology Minister KH Muniyappa told the legislative council that oil companies have informed the state government that the retail selling price of LPG includes delivery charges and that there is no provision to levy any additional delivery fee. Replying to MLC Dr Dhananjay Sarji on complaints of consumers being fleeced in the name of cylinder delivery, the Minister said instances have been reported where customers are forced to pay Rs 50 to Rs 100 extra at the time of delivery. Like other cities, demand for payment of doorstep delivery is rampant and in high-rise apartments, consumers are often made to pay a higher amount for doorstep service.

Residents move HC against school in Rajajinagar

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The High Court has issued notice to the government, police and Greater Bengaluru Authority in response to a Public Interest Litigation over the functioning of a school in a residential area of Rajajinagar.

A division bench of Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice CM Poonacha, posted the petition filed by Rajajinagar 5th Block Residents' Welfare Association to July 2 for further consideration. The petitioners urged the court to issue directions to the authorities to consider their requests vis-a-vis the problems they faced owing to the conduct of National Public School. They claimed the school uses a public address system throughout the day, which disturbs locals.

Will review decision to raise BPL card income slab to ₹3L: Min

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Food and Civil Supplies Minister KH Muniyappa assured that he will review and take action regarding increasing the income limit for priority cards in Bengaluru city.

In this regard, during the half-hour discussion on the answer provided to the dot identification question in the session, MLA Ashwath Narayan said, the income limit of the BPL card should be revised. In 2017, the income limit was fixed at Rs 1.20 lakh. Now the income limit needs to be revised. According to the Food Security Act, 50 percent of the people in urban areas should be given priority cards. It says that 70 percent should be given to rural areas. According to the 2011 census, there are 83,98,537 people in Bengaluru. Ration cards have been given to only 7.10 lakh in the BBMP area. Considering today's population, it is not even 15 percent, he said.

Today, the poor, widows, disabled and auto drivers in Bengaluru are not getting BPL cards. As the people's representative of Bengaluru, we are regretting that we have not done anything for the poor. We give a saree for Rs 200, which is enough, thousands of people stand in queues. We say that the per capita income of Bengaluru is good.

Bannerghatta zoo will soon get observation tower

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Bannerghatta Biological Park (BBP) is set to get an observation tower within the zoo premises, aimed at enhancing visitor experience and promoting conservation awareness.

The project will be developed in partnership with Rohini Nilekani Philanthropies, which will fund the Rs 5-crore project through a grant. A memorandum of understanding was signed on March 24 between Rohini Nilekani Philanthropies and BBP, which is a unit under the Zoo Authority of Karnataka. The proposed 25-metre-high tower will offer panoramic views of Bannerghatta National Park and the Bengaluru skyline. It has been designed to accommodate 50-70 visitors at a time.

The structure will also include corporate sustainable features such as solar energy systems and rainwater harvesting. Officials said the tower will include educational elements and curated experiences to encourage nature-based learning and responsible tourism. BBP, which attracts over 2.2 million visitors annually, plays a key role in wildlife rescue, conservation, and public education. BBP executive director AV Surya Sen said the initiative would strengthen conservation outreach while enhancing visitor engagement.

The proposed observation tower will not only enhance visitor experience through immersive, nature-based learning, but will also stand as a symbol of our dedication to environmentally responsible infrastructure, he said. Public institutions like Bannerghatta Biological Park are vital spaces where people can connect with nature, not merely as spectators, but as participants in a shared ecological future, Rohini Nilekani said, expressing hope the observation tower will inspire a sense of awe for the natural world.

HEFTY FINES AWAIT RULE BREAKERS

Towing back in B'luru as cops target illegal parking

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Motorists parking in no-parking zones risk their vehicles being towed away as authorities reintroduce operations after a four-year gap.

The towing will be done by vehicles owned by Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) and operated by its staff. Fine for parking violation remains Rs 500. Additionally, two-wheelers are charged Rs 650 and four-wheelers Rs 1,000 by way of towing charges. Unlike the earlier system that relied on private 'Tiger' towing vehicles, the new system is being supervised by the police, with an assistant sub-inspector leading each operation.Traffic police maintain that illegal parking, often spanning across multiple lanes on busy roads, is a major contributor to congestion in the city.

City Police Commissioner Seemanth Kumar Singh said the rollout has already begun in Bengaluru Central City Corporation and Bengaluru West City Corporation. Soon, it will be extended to the other divisions as well, he told.

Joint Commissioner (Traffic) Kartik Reddy said the move is aimed at tackling the worsening traffic congestion caused by illegal parking. The towing vehicles will have CCTV cameras fitted at the front and back. Upon spotting any parking violation, police will make an announcement and wait a few minutes for the vehicle to be removed. Thereafter, it will be towed away, he explained.

Officials added that all personnel involved, including the ASI, will be equipped with body-worn cameras to ensure transparency. Towing of vehicles was suspended in Feb 2022, following complaints of unruly behaviour by private towing staff and allegations of corruption involving traffic police personnel. Since then, the authorities had relied on wheel clamps to penalise violators, but officials said the measure proved ineffective as vehicles remained stuck in one place.

The government has provided ten towing vehicles, two vehicles each, to the five municipalities under the GBA jurisdiction, including a police inspector, a constable, and four personnel from the GBA to tow the vehicles.

CCTV cameras have been installed at the front and rear of the towing vehicle, and any mishaps or disturbances will be captured. This will allow senior officials to keep an eye on the behaviour of the staff. It has been decided to tow mainly on roads with heavy traffic and no parking spaces.

Job fraud: 4 more arrested

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The CCB police have arrested four more accused in a case in which they duped hundreds of people of crores of rupees by promising them jobs in the court.

GS Venkata Reddy, Thippeswamy, Siddalingaiah and Vijaya Siddalingaiah Hiremath have been arrested. With this, the total number of arrests in the case has increased to six. Earlier, the CCB police had arrested a couple named Jason D'Souza and Lavina, who were defrauding unemployed and job seekers by promising them D-Group posts in the courts.

The accused, who had hired agents to collect money and find job seekers, used the information they provided to target the unemployed and those working for low wages in private companies. They would extort money ranging from Rs 10 lakh to Rs 25 lakh from each person on the pretext of work. The police said that they would give commission to the agents from the money they defrauded.

They would pretend to verify documents in private hotels and show fake offer letters to convince them. When the people who gave them money inquired about the job, they would pass the time by telling stories like "I'll be back tomorrow." Finally, they would escape without answering the victims' phone calls. Cases were registered against the accused in some places, including Basaveshwara Nagar.

QUICK READ

Farmers block road over falling tobacco prices

Hunsur

Farmers in Kattemalalawadi tobacco market of Hunsur taluk protested against low tobacco prices. Led by Praka Agrahara Ramegowda and Tobacco Belgar Dasappa of the Karnataka State Farmers' Association, they claimed buyers previously paid Rs 320 and Rs 290, but now offer only Rs 255-260 per kg. The farmers demanded a proper support price and blocked the Hunsur-K.R.Nagar main road to press their demands. They said the central government had reduced tobacco prices by 18%, hurting livelihoods. The protest aims to push buyers to pay fairly and ensure farmers receive a sustainable price for their crops.

Farmers learn compost making from areca nut

Chitradurga

Chitradurga farmers have a chance to attend a one-day outdoor training on March 28 at Kereyagalahalli village in Holalkere taluk. The program will teach how to use biofertilizers, biopesticides, and make compost from areca nut peel. Organized by Babbur Farm District Agricultural Training Center, the session will be led by Kumar, Technical Officer at Multiplex Biotech Private Limited, Tumkur. Only the first 50 farmers to register by calling 8277931058 will be admitted. Participants should bring their FID card or voter ID. Free areca nut peel compost will be provided to those attending.

Madiga community warns of statewide protest

Bullahalli Rajappa urged the cabinet to address 40-year internal reservation demands, submitting a petition highlighting community backwardness

DEVANAHALLI

Leaders of the Madiga community have warned of a statewide protest if internal reservation is not implemented as per the Justice Nagamohan Das report.

Speaking during a protest in front of the District Administration Building, Bullahalli Rajappa said the community has been fighting for over 40 years for fair internal reservation based on population. He said the issue must be addressed in the cabinet meeting scheduled on March 27.

A petition was submitted to the state government through District Collector K. N. Anuradha. Rajappa said the community remains socially, economically, and educationally backward and is only demanding its rightful share without affecting others.

He also alleged that political leaders are creating divisions among communities instead of resolving the issue. He said the community will not remain silent if justice is denied.

District President Marappa said the community has faced long-term injustice and should not be misled during implementation. Former Municipal President Murthy urged the government to ensure population-based reservation and avoid confusion.

Several community organisations, including Arundhati Seva Samiti and Jambava Seva Trust, took part in the protest. Many leaders and supporters gathered and raised slogans demanding action. The District Collector assured protesters that their petition would be forwarded to the government and necessary steps would be taken based on official directions.

Stop politics over SC/ ST reservation issue: MLA T. Raghumurthy

CHITRADURGA

Raghumurthy stated the 2023 reservation increase for Scheduled Castes and Tribes remains stalled by a court case, reducing job opportunities for over 3,000 eligible youth

Challakere MLA T. Raghumurthy has urged the Central government to avoid politics and ensure justice in the matter of reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

Speaking during the Assembly budget session, he said the proposal to increase reservation from 15 to 17 percent for Scheduled Castes and from 3 to 7 percent for Scheduled Tribes in 2023 has been stalled due to a High Court case. As a result, the earlier reservation system is still being followed.

He said the state government has already sent proposals to include the increased reservation in the Constitution's Ninth Schedule, but the Centre has not taken action so far. He stressed that this delay is affecting thousands of youth.

He explained that while filling 50,432 government posts, 14,543 jobs would be available under 24 percent reservation. However, with only 18 percent reservation, this number drops to 11,156, denying opportunities to over 3,000 eligible candidates.

Raghumurthy urged the Centre to act quickly and not play with the future of SC and ST youth. He also said many leaders who were involved in the earlier decision are now in Parliament and should support the move.

He added that reservation issues are affecting admissions in courses like medical and engineering. He called for immediate steps to resolve the problem.

The MLA also spoke about development works, including the Bhadra project, irrigation plans, and housing schemes, and sought more support for district development and employment generation initiatives in the region.

Free professional exam training open for students

CHITRADURGA

The Karnataka Minority Welfare Department has invited online applications for free coaching for NEET, IIT-JEE, K-SET, ICAR, CUET, CLAT, and CA-Foundation exams for 2026-27. Eligible students must have PUC education and belong to minority communities, including Muslim, Christian, Jain, Buddhist, Sikh, and Parsi. The last date to apply is March 31. Students can apply online via the department's website at gokdom.karnataka.gov.in. For guidance, applicants can contact the District Office, Minority Pre-University College, or local Minority Information Centers. This initiative aims to give minority students a strong start toward professional careers.

Doctors from Basaveshwara Medical College, supported by health staff, conducted a community camp delivering doorstep healthcare in Buddhanagar

Free health fair brings care to Chitradurga residents

CHITRADURGA

In a major community initiative, 'Namma Clinic' of I.U.D.P. Barangay, under Buddhanagar Health Center, organized a free health check-up camp and health fair on Wednesday, in collaboration with the District Administration, Zilla Panchayat, and District Health Department.

The event targeted wage laborers and residents of areas like Kandayagiri Nagar, Sadik Nagar, Babu Jagjivanram Nagar, and Mahatma Gandhi Nagar, providing easy access to quality healthcare. Taluk Health Officer Dr. B.V. Girish inaugurated the program, urging locals to take full advantage of the services offered.

A team of expert doctors from Basaveshwara Medical College and Research Center conducted health check-ups. Specialist doctors included Dr. Arjun M. (Arthritis), Dr. Adarsh N.K. (General Medicine), Dr. Nithya and Dr. Jeevika M. (Obstetrics and Gynecology), and Dr. Ananya R. (Pulmonary). Camp Coordinator Abhishek oversaw the smooth running of the program.

Medical officers, health inspectors, nursing officers, laboratory technicians, and ASHA workers were actively involved, ensuring residents received thorough medical attention. Buddhanagar Medical Officer Dr. Surendra Kumar emphasized that the main goal was to deliver healthcare services directly to people's doorsteps. Dr. Akshatha of I.U.D.P. Layout presided over the event.

Senior Health Inspector T. Srinivasamurthy guided the proceedings, and many residents benefited from free consultations, screenings, and advice. Officials said the initiative strengthens local healthcare access, encourages preventive care, and supports the well-being of the community. The fair highlighted the importance of bringing medical services closer to people, especially for underprivileged sections, and encouraged residents to maintain regular health check-ups.

State power staff sports meet kicks off

MANDYA

A state-level inter-electricity company sports meet for 2025-26 began on Wednesday, bringing together employees from power companies across Karnataka for two days of games and team spirit.

The event was inaugurated by MLA and CESC President A. B. Ramesh Bandisidde Gowda at the PET Engineering College Stadium. Speaking on the occasion, he said electricity staff work round the clock and face constant pressure. He noted that such sports events help reduce stress and give employees a chance to relax and connect. He encouraged all participants to take part with energy and enjoyment.

More than 100 players from CESC, BESCOM, MESCOM, HESCOM and JESCOM are taking part in the meet. Competitions include kabaddi, volleyball, basketball, ball badminton and table tennis. The event aims to promote fitness, teamwork and unity among employees.

During the function, national-level achievers Nishita and Nandish in shuttle badminton and Karthik in kabaddi were honoured for their achievements. Nishita later administered the sports oath to all athletes, urging them to play fairly and uphold sportsmanship.

K. M. Munigopal Raju praised the smooth organisation of the event. He said players should compete with joy and bring pride to their respective companies.

Several senior officials, engineers and association members attended the programme. The sports meet is expected to strengthen bonds among employees while giving them a refreshing break from their demanding duties and responsibilities.

SPIRITUAL CHAMUNDI JOURNEY...

Governor Thawar Chand Gehlot visited Chamundi Hills, offered special prayers to Goddess Chamundeshwari, with District Collector Laxmikant Reddy and other dignitaries in attendance.

Minister leaves inauguration event, sparks association tension

DEVANAHALLI

Bengaluru Rural District Minister K.H. Muniyappa inaugurated the second-storey building of the Budigere Multipurpose Primary Rural Agricultural Cooperative Society in Channarayapatna hobli, but left the venue in a hurry, causing confusion and dissatisfaction among local leaders.

The minister arrived on time, completed the inauguration quickly, and departed due to another scheduled session. His decision to proceed without consulting the association president or involving local leaders led to verbal altercations and a tense atmosphere at the event.

Association president Srinivasa Gowda expressed his displeasure and resigned on the spot, walking out of the ceremony. Local residents and public representatives criticized the hurried inauguration, stating that proper protocol should have been followed to respect the association's leadership.

The incident has sparked discussions about the importance of coordination between political representatives and local organizational leaders during public events, especially when inaugurating major infrastructure projects.

Officials noted that while the building itself marks a significant development for the cooperative society, the manner in which the event was conducted overshadowed the achievement, highlighting the need for better communication and planning in future ceremonies.

Free health checkup camp for medical students

CHITRADURGA

A free health checkup camp for MBBS students will be held at Chitradurga Institute of Medical Sciences on March 26 and 27. The camp is organized by the Department of Community Medicine. The inaugural session will begin at 10 am on March 26 at Gyanagangotri. Additional Deputy Commissioner B. T. Kumaraswamy will be the chief guest, with District Health Officer Dr. Renuprasad G. P. and District Surgeon Dr. Ravindra S. P. as guests of honor. CMCRI Director Dr. Yuvaraj B. Y. will preside, and Dr. Ashwini L. H. will coordinate the program.

First-year MBBS students will be examined on March 26, and second-year students on March 27, from 9 am to 5 pm. Tests include blood count, diabetes, liver, kidney, thyroid, and vitamin D and B12.

Devanahalli Tahsildar praised as people-friendly officer

DEVANAHALLI

State Human Rights Promotion Committee President Mahendra Kumar defended Taluk Magistrate Anil Kumar against recent allegations of unavailability and poor responsiveness. Speaking to the media, Mahendra Kumar said these claims are false. "Since Anil Kumar assumed office, many pending cases have been resolved efficiently. He is a people-friendly officer, and anyone can meet him directly at his office," he said.

Kumar urged organization leaders not to make baseless allegations that could obstruct the Tahsildar's work. He advised that any genuine complaints should be directed to the concerned officers or government ministers instead of spreading misinformation.

The statement comes amid concerns raised by certain groups questioning the Tahsildar's accessibility and responsiveness. Officials emphasized that open communication and proper channels remain the key for addressing grievances. A photograph of Mahendra Kumar representing the State Human Rights Promotion Committee was shared during the event, highlighting his support for the Tahsildar's administration and commitment to fair governance.

Compensation assured for rain-damaged houses soon

HUNSUR

Immediate steps will be taken to provide proper compensation to families whose houses were damaged due to strong winds and rain, said Varsha Harish Gowda after visiting Dasanapura village.

She visited affected families, interacted with residents, and personally handed over compensation to some victims. She said the government is committed to supporting people during such difficult times and ensuring no one is left without help.

A meeting was earlier held with taluk-level officials to review rain damage and discuss relief measures. Officials were directed to speed up the process of assessing losses and distributing compensation without delay.

She said both fully and partially damaged houses will receive financial assistance under government rules. So far, compensation has already been given in several cases, and support has been extended to 22 affected houses in the region.

A joint survey is currently underway to assess crop damage caused by the rains. Officials have been instructed to complete this survey quickly so that farmers can also receive timely compensation.

She stressed that quick action is necessary to reduce the difficulties faced by villagers. Efforts are being made to ensure transparency and fairness in the distribution of relief funds. Local leaders and officials were present during the visit. Residents expressed hope that the remaining compensation will be released soon and their problems addressed without further delay by authorities concerned.

RUN FOR CLEANLINESS

Hunsur Marathon highlights citizens' role in cleanliness

HUNSUR

Hunsur, long celebrated as a model clean city, recently hosted the Swachh Hunsur Marathon, emphasizing the importance of citizen participation in maintaining cleanliness. The event began at the city's Constitution Circle and included prize distribution for marathon winners.

Deputy Commissioner Kavyarani praised the city's achievements under the Swachh Bharat Mission and highlighted the key role citizens play in keeping their surroundings clean. "Clean homes and proper waste disposal are the foundation of a healthy city. Cleanliness is vital for our survival, and citizen cooperation is essential," she said.

She also commended civic workers for their tireless efforts in waste collection, urging residents to support them by handing over garbage to municipal vehicles. "The work of our civic staff cannot be measured in value. Respecting their service ensures a cleaner Hunsur," she added.

Municipal Commissioner Manasa said the marathon was more than a competition—it was a celebration of Hunsur's commitment to cleanliness. He thanked citizens for their support and expressed hope that the city continues to set an example for others.

The program was attended by DySP Ravi, Inspector Santosh Kashappa, S.I. Tajuddin, Dr. Sarojini, Environmental Engineer Soumya, R.I. Siddharaju, and others. Officials emphasized that maintaining a clean city is a shared responsibility and encouraged residents to continue participating in initiatives that make Hunsur a model for hygiene and civic pride.

Fair compensation assured for railway land acquisition

Kumaraswamy detailed market-based compensation, additional benefits, and educational and job reservations for farmers losing significant land

CHITRADURGA

Farmers giving land for the railway project will receive fair compensation without any injustice, assured B.T. Kumaraswamy during a meeting held at the District Collector's Office.

He said the land is being acquired to double the railway track between Chikkajajur and Bellary via Chitradurga and Challakere. This project aims to improve public transport and help farmers move crops like areca nut easily. He clarified that the acquisition is for public benefit, not for any private company.

Kumaraswamy explained that compensation will be fixed based on current market value, using Sub-Registrar data and average sale prices of the past three years. Farmers in urban areas will receive twice the base price, while rural landowners will get three to four times the value. Compensation will also cover crops, horticulture plants, livestock sheds, and other farm structures.

He added that farmers losing more than one-fourth of their land will receive a "Planned Refugee Certificate." This will help their children get reservations in education and government jobs. Farmers will also get exemption from registration fees when buying new land.

Highlighting the process, he said the "direct purchase" system is being used to avoid long delays. Unlike the usual two to three years, compensation will be given within three months.

Officials informed that land surveys are ongoing, and notices will be issued soon. A separate meeting will be held to discuss the Davangere-Chitradurga-Tumakuru railway line project.

Farmers learn sustainable integrated farming for better income

CHITRADURGA

Farmers were encouraged to adopt integrated farming systems to ensure steady income and long-term sustainability during a three-day training programme held at Babbur Farm in Hiriyur taluk.

Speaking at the event, R. Rajinikanth said integrated farming helps farmers get continuous yields by combining different activities instead of depending on a single crop. He explained that methods like mixed cropping, intercropping, and multiple cropping can give better results based on local soil and climate.

He highlighted that farmers can earn daily income through dairy farming, while greens and vegetables like tomato, cucumber, and watermelon can provide monthly returns. Activities like poultry, silkworm rearing, and sheep and goat farming also add regular income. Fruits such as papaya and banana offer periodic earnings, while crops like coconut, areca, and mango provide yearly returns. Tree farming, including teak and sandalwood, adds long-term benefits.

The programme was organised under a state scheme by the District Agricultural Training Center, which also spreads awareness through newspapers and social media. Farmers were invited to join more training sessions held at village level and online platforms.

During the session, farmer Indhudar shared his success with organic and natural farming, improving soil health and crop yield. Another farmer, Nagarajappa, said he earns up to Rs. 7 lakh annually through earthworm farming. Experts also explained the benefits of beekeeping and scientific livestock management.

Many farmers from different villages took part and gained useful knowledge.

Excessive Use of Chemical Fertilisers Destroying Soil Fertility: Seer

KALABURAGI

Excessive use of chemical fertilisers by farmers is leading to a decline in soil fertility and reduced crop yield, said Adrushya Kadasiddeshwara Mahaswamiji of Kanhheri Math. He was speaking after inaugurating a State-level farmers' awareness convention organised by the Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha and Hasiru Sene taluk unit at the Tahsildar's office premises in Yedrami. The seer expressed concern that in recent years, farmers have been increasingly relying on chemical fertilisers in pursuit of higher yields. "This practice is gradually destroying the natural fertility of the soil, ultimately resulting in lower productivity," he said.

He advised farmers to adopt organic methods by using cattle dung from cows and bullocks to prepare natural manure. "Applying organic manure to fields enhances soil fertility and leads to better and sustainable yields," he added.

Highlighting environmental concerns in the Kalaburagi region, he noted that the number of trees has significantly declined, leading to increased heat and adversely affecting crop growth.

He urged farmers to plant more trees to improve the ecological balance. The seer also pointed out that sugarcane cultivation is on the rise in the region. "Merely growing sugarcane is not enough. Farmers must ensure proper nutrient management to achieve better yields," he said. Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha and Hasiru Sene State President Kodihalli Chandrashekar, speaking on the occasion, stressed that governments must ensure food security and take concrete steps for farmers' development.

He criticised both State and Central governments for making promises without addressing farmers' issues effectively.

He further stated that budget allocations are largely being spent on subsidies, and called for the implementation of the Dr. M.S. Swaminathan Committee report to ensure sustainable growth and fair returns for farmers.

Several seers and dignitaries, including Vishwaradhya Shivacharya of Maganagera Math, Dr. Rudramuni Shivacharya of Kadakol Math, Dr. Shivananda Mahaswamiji of Sonna Math, Siddalinga Mahaswamiji of Yedrami Math, Girishananda Mahaswamiji of Surapali-Jamkhandi, Aravind Maharaj, Sharanananda Mahaswamiji, senior scientist Dr. Manjunath Choureddy, Dr. Sunilkumar Nooli, State Women's Vice-President Mahadevi Benalamath, and Eeranna Bhajantri, were present.

DSS stages protest in Surpur condemning assault on Dalits

YADGIR

Members of the Karnataka State Dalit Sangharsh Samiti (Krantikari faction) staged a symbolic protest in Surpur town condemning the alleged assault on Dalits in Benakanahalli village of Shahapur taluk and demanding immediate arrest the accused...The protest was held in front of the DySP office, where activists raised slogans and submitted a memorandum to the authorities.

Speaking on the occasion, State Organising Convenor Mallikarjun Kranti alleged that upper-caste had assaulted Devappa Kattimani and his family members in Benakanahalli village. He further claimed that despite having a water connection, the family's drinking and domestic water supply has been deliberately stopped. He stated that on January 21, three members of the family were attacked and subjected to caste-based abuse. Although a case was registered at Shahapur Police Station, no arrests have been made so far, he alleged.

The protesters demanded immediate arrest of the accused and sought police protection for Devappa Kattimani and his family. They also urged authorities to restore drinking water supply to the affected household without delay. Additionally, the organisation demanded action against the concerned staff who allegedly disrupted water supply, including their dismissal from service and registration of a case under provisions related to caste-based discrimination.

Warning of intensified agitation, the leaders said that if their demands are not met promptly, they will launch an indefinite protest by locking the Shahapur Taluk Panchayat office from April 1 until justice is served. Later, a memorandum was submitted to DySP Javed Inamdar. Several leaders and members, including Maan Gurikar, district convenor Sarita B. Sharma, Mallikarjun Tallalli, Manappa Bijaspur, Ravichandra Bommanahalli, Shivashankar Bommanahalli, Ninganna Shellagi, Revanasiddappa Malagatti, Moorthi Bommanahalli, Ramanna Shellagi, Jatteppa Nagaral, Mahesh Yadagiri and others participated in the protest.

Muddy Kanyal road troubles villagers, action urged

RAICHUR

Residents of Kanyal area near Pamanakallur village in Maski taluk are facing daily hardship as their road has turned into a muddy stretch after recent rains, making travel difficult and unsafe.

The road connects Kanyal, where many Scheduled Tribe families live, to Pamanakallur village. It is widely used by schoolchildren, college students, workers, and villagers for daily activities. However, during rains, the road becomes slippery and almost impossible to use.

Over 20 children travel daily to the government school in Pamanakallur, while many others commute to nearby colleges. Villagers say they are forced to walk barefoot, carrying their slippers in hand, as footwear gets stuck or damaged in the mud.

Local residents have repeatedly appealed to authorities, including elected representatives and panchayat officials, to build a permanent CC road. They said earlier temporary repairs with soil have only worsened the condition.

Mallaiah recently visited the area and inspected the road after locals raised concerns. Villagers hope this visit will lead to action. Resident Ayyanna Nayaka said people suffer every time it rains, with clothes getting dirty and travel becoming painful. Gram Panchayat member Ambamma Nayaka said several requests have been made to officials, but no solution has come yet.

Another member, Srinivasa Sanabala, said repeated efforts to highlight the issue have failed.

Villagers now demand a permanent solution through construction of a proper CC road without further delay.

IN THE COURT OF THE I ADDITIONAL CIVIL JUDGE & J.M.F.C AT DODDABALLAPURA
C. MIS. No. 94/2026

BETWEEN: 1. Sri. Pillappa, S/o Late. Anjinappa, aged about 75 years, **2. Smt. Narasamma,** W/o Pillappa, aged about 66 years, **3. Sri. Ramappa,** S/o Pillappa, aged about 51 years, **4. Sri. Prakash,** S/o Pillappa, aged about 45 years, All are R/at Gantiganahalli Village, Thubagere Hobli, Doddaballapura taluk, Bengalore Rural District - 561203. **5. Smt. Ambhikamma,** D/o Pillappa, W/o Nagaraju. V, aged about 50 years, R/at. #01, P.Q Block, R.L Jalappa Hospital, Tamaka, Kolar District - 563101. And thers ...**PETITIONERS**

AND: The Tahsildar, Doddaballapura Taluk Office, Doddaballapura - 561 203 ... **RESPONDENT**

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas the petitioners has filed the above petition under section 13(3) of the Registration of Birth and Deaths Act 1969 for seeking direction of the respondent authority to issue death certificate of **CHIKKAPILLAPPA** S/o Late. Muniyappa who died on 18/04/1999 in his native house at Gantiganahalli Village, Thubagere Hobali, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District and the Hon'ble court has posted for the above petition on **18/04/2026** for hearing of the petition. If any person/s desire to oppose the said petition or claim or interest shall appear before the Hon'ble court in person or by pleader duly interested at **11.00 AM** failing which the said petition will be disposed on enquiry.

Given under my hand seal of this Court today i.e., on 23/03/2026

By order by court, Chief Ministerial Officer, Prl Civil Judge & JMFC, Doddaballapura

Amarnath. M, Advocate
Sree. Gururaghavendra Law Chamber
Ground Floor, 6th Floor, 6th Cross,
Opp. Court Complex, Doddaballapura

IN THE COURT OF THE I ADDITIONAL CIVIL JUDGE & J.M.F.C AT DODDABALLAPURA
C. MIS. No. 89/2026

BETWEEN: 1. Sri. Pillappa, S/o Late. Anjinappa, aged about 75 years, **2. Smt. Narasamma,** W/o Pillappa, aged about 66 years, **3. Sri. Ramappa,** S/o Pillappa, aged about 51 years, **4. Sri. Prakash,** S/o Pillappa, aged about 45 years, All are R/at Gantiganahalli Village, Thubagere Hobli, Doddaballapura taluk, Bengalore Rural District - 561203. **5. Smt. Ambhikamma,** D/o Pillappa, W/o Nagaraju. V, aged about 50 years, R/at. #01, P.Q Block, R.L Jalappa Hospital, Tamaka, Kolar District - 563101. And thers ...**PETITIONERS**

AND: The Tahsildar, Doddaballapura Taluk Office, Doddaballapura - 561 203 ... **RESPONDENT**

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas the petitioners has filed the above petition under section 13(3) of the Registration of Birth and Deaths Act 1969 for seeking direction of the respondent authority to issue death certificate of **MUNIVENKATAMMA** W/o Late. Anjinappa who died on 01/08/2002 in her native house at Gantiganahalli Village, Thubagere Hobali, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District and the Hon'ble court has posted for the above petition on **18/04/2026** for hearing of the petition. If any person/s desire to oppose the said petition or claim or interest shall appear before the Hon'ble court in person or by pleader duly interested at **11.00 AM** failing which the said petition will be disposed on enquiry.

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Amarnath. M, Advocate
Sree. Gururaghavendra Law Chamber
Ground Floor, 6th Floor, 6th Cross,
Opp. Court Complex, Doddaballapura

IN THE COURT OF THE I ADDITIONAL CIVIL JUDGE & J.M.F.C AT DODDABALLAPURA
C. MIS. No. 85/2026

BETWEEN: 1. Sri. Pillappa, S/o Late. Anjinappa, aged about 75 years, **2. Smt. Narasamma,** W/o Pillappa, aged about 66 years, **3. Sri. Ramappa,** S/o Pillappa, aged about 51 years, **4. Sri. Prakash,** S/o Pillappa, aged about 45 years, All are R/at Gantiganahalli Village, Thubagere Hobli, Doddaballapura taluk, Bengalore Rural District - 561203. **5. Smt. Ambhikamma,** D/o Pillappa, W/o Nagaraju. V, aged about 50 years, R/at. #01, P.Q Block, R.L Jalappa Hospital, Tamaka, Kolar District - 563101. And thers ...**PETITIONERS**

AND: The Tahsildar, Doddaballapura Taluk Office, Doddaballapura - 561 203 ... **RESPONDENT**

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas the petitioners has filed the above petition under section 13(3) of the Registration of Birth and Deaths Act 1969 for seeking direction of the respondent authority to issue death certificate of **THIMMAKKA** W/o Late. Chikkapillappa who died on 08/12/1999 in her native house at Gantiganahalli Village, Thubagere Hobali, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District and the Hon'ble court has posted for the above petition on **18/04/2026** for hearing of the petition. If any person/s desire to oppose the said petition or claim or interest shall appear before the Hon'ble court in person or by pleader duly interested at **11.00 AM** failing which the said petition will be disposed on enquiry.

Given under my hand seal of this Court today i.e., on 23/03/2026

By order by court, Chief Ministerial Officer, Prl Civil Judge & JMFC, Doddaballapura

Amarnath. M, Advocate
Sree. Gururaghavendra Law Chamber
Ground Floor, 6th Floor, 6th Cross,
Opp. Court Complex, Doddaballapura

IN THE COURT OF THE I ADDITIONAL CIVIL JUDGE & J.M.F.C AT DODDABALLAPURA
C. MIS. No. 88/2026

BETWEEN: 1. Sri. Pillappa, S/o Late. Anjinappa, aged about 75 years, **2. Smt. Narasamma,** W/o Pillappa, aged about 66 years, **3. Sri. Ramappa,** S/o Pillappa, aged about 51 years, **4. Sri. Prakash,** S/o Pillappa, aged about 45 years, All are R/at Gantiganahalli Village, Thubagere Hobli, Doddaballapura taluk, Bengalore Rural District - 561203. **5. Smt. Ambhikamma,** D/o Pillappa, W/o Nagaraju. V, aged about 50 years, R/at. #01, P.Q Block, R.L Jalappa Hospital, Tamaka, Kolar District - 563101. And thers ...**PETITIONERS**

AND: The Tahsildar, Doddaballapura Taluk Office, Doddaballapura - 561 203 ... **RESPONDENT**

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas the petitioners has filed the above petition under section 13(3) of the Registration of Birth and Deaths Act 1969 for seeking direction of the respondent authority to issue death certificate of **ANJINAPPA** S/o Late. Chikkapillappa who died on 10/11/2001 in his native house at Gantiganahalli Village, Thubagere Hobali, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District and the Hon'ble court has posted for the above petition on **18/04/2026** for hearing of the petition. If any person/s desire to oppose the said petition or claim or interest shall appear before the Hon'ble court in person or by pleader duly interested at **11.00 AM** failing which the said petition will be disposed on enquiry.

Given under my hand seal of this Court today i.e., on 23/03/2026

By order by court, Chief Ministerial Officer, Prl Civil Judge & JMFC, Doddaballapura

Amarnath. M, Advocate
Sree. Gururaghavendra Law Chamber
Ground Floor, 6th Floor, 6th Cross,
Opp. Court Complex, Doddaballapura

Nearly 500 students missed SSLC language exam

CHITRADURGA

In Chitradurga district, 493 students were absent from the SSLC Exam-1 Second Language paper. Out of 22,904 registered candidates, 22,411 appeared for the examination conducted across 84 centres, according to the Deputy Director of the School Education Department.

Despite the absentee count, the examination was held smoothly with proper supervision and adherence to guidelines at all centres. Officials urged students and parents to ensure regular attendance for the remaining exams to avoid missing crucial papers.

The department also directed schools to closely monitor student participation and take necessary steps to improve attendance in upcoming examinations.

Students advised to choose courses based on interest at career guidance fair

BIDAR

A career education exhibition and guidance fair organised by the Department of School Education and the District Institute of Education and Training (DIET) provided comprehensive information on various career options to students in Bidar.

The event was held at the Shaheen Campus near Shahapur Gate and witnessed participation from over a thousand students from Classes 8 to II PUC across the district. Various colleges set up around 20 stalls showcasing information about different courses available after SSLC and II PUC.

Students were guided on eligibility criteria, course details, and career opportunities in fields such as MBBS, veterinary science, agriculture, sericulture, horticulture, fisheries, engineering, polytechnic, ITI, and paramedical courses. Additionally, around 100 display boards were installed to provide detailed information on academic options. Inaugurating the programme, Dr. Abdul Khadeer, Chairman of Shaheen Group of Institutions, advised students to choose courses based on their interest and aptitude.

"Apart from medical and engineering, there are numerous courses available. Students should carefully select a field they are passionate about and work hard to build a bright future," he said.

Presiding over the function, DIET Principal Dr. Mohammed Gulseen stated that the fair was organised to create awareness among students about career opportunities after SSLC and PUC.

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ಕುಂಬಾರವಾಡಾ–581187 email: acfanshiwl@gmail.com
ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ: ಸ.ಅ.ಸಂ/ಕುಂಬಾರವಾಡಾ/ಎ.ಪಿ.ಸಿ & ಪಿ.ಸಿ.ಪಿ/939/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 18/03/2026

ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಮರು ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಮಾತ್ರ)

2026–27ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆನರಾ ವೃತ್ತ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಉಪ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು ಮತ್ತು ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು ಕಾಳಿ ಹುಲಿ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಿತ ಪ್ರದೇಶ ದಾಂಡೇಲಿಯ ವಿಭಾಗದ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅಗತ್ಯವಿರುವ ಕಂಪ್ಯೂಟರ್ ಆಪರೇಟರ್, ಲಿಪಿಕ ಸಹಾಯಕರು, ವಾಹನ ಚಾಲಕರು, ಕಾವಲುಗಾರರು (ಡಿ ಗ್ರೂಪ್) ಹಾಗೂ ವಲಯ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿ ಕಳ್ಳಬೇಟೆ ಶಿಬಿರಗಳಿಗೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಅರಣ್ಯ ರಕ್ಷಣಾ ಶಿಬಿರಗಳಿಗೆ ಕೆಲಸ ನಿರ್ವಹಿಸಲು ಕಾವಲುಗಾರರ ಸೇವೆಯನ್ನು ಹೊರಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲ ಏಜೆನ್ಸಿಯವರಿಂದ ಪಡೆಯಲು 2026–27 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿಗೆ ಮೇಲ್ಕಂಡಂತೆ ಹೊರಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಸೇವೆಯನ್ನು ನಿರ್ವಹಿಸಲು ಇ–ಪ್ರೋಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ದ್ವೀ ಲಕೋಟೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಸದರಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಎಕ ಬಿಡ್ ಆಗಿರುವುದರಿಂದ ಸದರಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಮರು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅನ್ನು ದಿನಾಂಕ: 18–03–2026 ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿತ್ತು. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 18–04–2026 ರಂದು ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆ ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ ನಿಗಧಿಪಡಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ಕಛೇರಿಯನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕುರಿತು ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಅಧಿಕೃತ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ https://kppp.karnataka,gov.in ಮೂಲಕ ಪಡೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಪೂರೈಸಬೇಕಾದ ಹೊರಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲ ಸೇವೆಗಳ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಅನುಸೂಚಿ: ವಿವರಗಳು: 1) ಕಾಳಿ ಹುಲಿ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಿತ ಪ್ರದೇಶ ದಾಂಡೇಲಿಯ ವಿಭಾಗದ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ದೈನಂದಿನ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಹಾಗೂ ವನ್ಯಪ್ರಾಣಿ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣೆ ಮತ್ತು ಪರಿಸರ ಪ್ರವಾಸೋದ್ಯಮ ಚಟುವಟಿಕೆಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಅವಶ್ಯಕತೆ ಇರುವ ನೌಕರರನ್ನು ಹೊರಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಆಧಾರದ ಮೇಲೆ ಪೂರೈಕೆ ಮಾಡುವುದು. (1) ಕುಶಲ (Skilled) ಕೆಲಸಗಾರರು– 160 ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ (2) ಅರೆಕುಶಲ (Un Skilled) ಕೆಲಸಗಾರರು– 120 ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ, ಪರಿಮಾಣ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 280 ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ, ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಮೊತ್ತ: 854785.92, ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ: 1282180.00

(1) ಟೆಂಡರ ಪ್ರಶ್ನೆಗಳು / ಸ್ಪಷ್ಟಿಕರಣ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 18–04–2026 ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 04.00 ಗಂಟೆ (2) ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 19–04–2026 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆ (3) ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯಲು ದಿನಾಂಕ: 20–04–2026 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ (4) ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯಲು ದಿನಾಂಕ: 21–04–2026 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ.

ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಬೇಕಾದಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ದಾರರು ಈ ಕೆಳ ಸಹಿದಾರರ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ಕೆಲಸದ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅಥವಾ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/–, ಸಹಾಯಕ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿ
ವನ್ಯಜೀವಿ ಉಪ ವಿಭಾಗ ಕುಂಬಾರವಾಡಾ

DIPR/KWR/KSMCA/1248/25-26 dt.25.03.26

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **EKTA V LUND** alias **EKTA U LANA W/o D VIJAY KUMAR**, R/o 2918, Irwin Road, Lashkar Mohalla, Mysore, Karnataka-570001, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as **KANCHAN HEMDEV**.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **M S DHARNEESH S/o M A R MUTHURAMAN**, R/o 17/1, 5th cross, 4th Main, A D Halli Magadi Main Road, Bangalore North, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560079, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as **M MOULIESWAR**.

CH CLASSIFIEDS
To place a classified ad contact: **080-41209042**

IN THE COURT OF THE ADDL CIVIL JUDGE AND JMFC AT DODDABALLAPURA
C.Misc No.560/2025

PETITIONERS:
Sri.Lokesh S/o LateDoddathimegowda Aged about 39 years R/at Kodigehalli village Kasaba Hobali, Doddaballapura Taluk Bangalore Rural District

v/s

RESPONDENT:
Register of Birth and Deaths Rep., by the Thasildar Doddaballapur Doddaballapur Taluk

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas the petitioners above named have filed above for the relief of registering death certificate of their Father of petitioner namely Sri.Doddathimegowda S/o Chikkahanumathrayappa died on 12-07-1987 resident of Kodigehalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, and any person/s who are interested to be present before the Hon'ble court on 30.4.26 at 11-00 a.m to contest the case and intend to relay in support of there defense. Take notice that in default of appearance on the day before mentioned the case will be here and determined in the absence.

Give under my hand and seal of the court on the 25-03-2026

By order of the court : Chief Ministeral Officer
Pri Civili Judge & JMFC, Doddaballapur

Advocate for petitioner. : Prakasha. C, Advocate, Doddaballapur

Students gain firsthand experience at Vidhana Soudha

CHIKKABALLAPURA

Students of the Postgraduate Political Science Department at Chikkaballapura Government First Grade College visited Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru to observe the ongoing legislative session, gaining firsthand experience of the state's law-making process.

The educational tour, organized with the help of Dr. Venkatesh, department coordinator, aimed to provide students with real-world exposure to political activities, debates, and discussions on public issues. College Principal Prof. Vasundhara said the visit helped increase both political awareness and practical understanding among students. Dr. Prabha, head of the Political Science Department, highlighted that witnessing the legislative process in person is far more insightful than learning from textbooks alone. She emphasized that observing debates, question sessions, and decision-making in the Assembly and Council helps students understand democratic values and the importance of governance.

Lecturer Satyanarayana noted that students gained valuable insights into legislative procedures, including discussions, question-and-answer periods, and the process of passing laws. The visit was attended by lecturers Raghavendra, Murali, Geetha, staff members G. Suresh and K.R. Chandra, and the students.

QUICK READ

Youth held with ganja, valuables worth Rs 2 lakh in Goa

PANAJI

A 22-year-old man was arrested in Goa's Quepem for illegal possession of suspected ganja worth around Rs. 30,000, officials said on Wednesday. Quepem Police has registered a case against the accused under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act. A police team, led by Police Sub-Inspector (PSI) Digamber Bondre of Quepem Police Station, apprehended the accused at Nirmal Nagar area of Quepem in South Goa. According to the police, around 297 grams of greenish leafy substance with flowering and fruiting tops suspected to be ganja, all worth approximately Rs. 30,000 was recovered.

JD(U) MP faces disqualification threat over anti-party activities

PATNA

A major political controversy has erupted within the Janata Dal (United) in Bihar as its Lok Sabha MP from Banka, Giridhari Yadav, faces the threat of disqualification over alleged anti-party activities. The issue escalated after Dileshwar Kamait, the party's leader in the Lok Sabha, formally wrote to the Speaker seeking action against Yadav. The complaint accuses him of violating party discipline, particularly during the Assembly elections when his son.

CAPF Bill tabled in RS, Oppn questions statuary competence

The Bill aims to bring five central forces -- CRPF, BSF, ITBP, SSB and CISF -- under a unified administrative framework

NEW DELHI

The Rajya Sabha on Wednesday began discussion on the Central Armed Police Forces (General Administration) Bill, 2026, which seeks to ensure a dominant role for Indian Police Service officers in the top leadership of the country's paramilitary forces.

The move has drawn sharp criticism from opposition parties and retired CAPF officers. They argue that the Bill undermines a Supreme Court judgment delivered on May 23, 2025. In that verdict, the apex court granted Organised Group A Service status to CAPF officers and directed the government to progressively reduce IPS deputation in the forces up to the rank of Inspector General over the next two years.

The Bill aims to bring the five central forces -- Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), Border Security Force (BSF), Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) and Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) -- under a unified administrative framework.

It provides that 50 per cent of the total posts in the rank of Inspector General, at least 67 per cent of the posts in the rank of Additional Director General, and all posts in the ranks of Special Director General and Director General

in the CAPFs shall be filled by IPS officers on deputation.

Till now, such postings were governed by executive orders. The proposed legislation aims to codify these provisions into law.

The Bill was tabled in the Upper House by Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai.

CPI(M) MP John Brittas strongly opposed the Bill, stating that it travels beyond the legislative competence of the government acting under an ordinary piece of legislation.

He added, While Parliament is competent, it cannot by mere declaration annul operative judicial orders without genuinely addressing the legal basis.

The Chair asserted that Parliament has the legislative competence to enact the law. However, Brittas countered that Parliament cannot override a judicial order merely by declaration without properly addressing its legal foundation.

TN poll: DMK finalises seat-sharing, to contest majority seats

CHENNAI

As per the agreement, the Congress has emerged as the largest ally in the DMK-led front, securing 28 seats. Other key partners have also been allocated seats based on mutual consultations. The Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi has been allotted eight seats, while the Communist Party of India and the Communist Party of India (Marxist) have received five seats each.

The Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam has been given four seats, while the Indian Union Muslim League and the Humanist People's Party have been allotted two seats each. The seat distribution reflects the DMK's effort to maintain balance among its allies while ensuring electoral strength across regions.

In a significant move aimed at projecting unity, Chief Minister and DMK President M.K. Stalin announced that candidates from both the DMK and its allies would contest in 175 constituencies under the party's 'Rising Sun' symbol.

The decision is being seen as a strategic attempt to consolidate votes and present a united front against opposition parties.

In a letter addressed to party workers, Stalin said that the seat-sharing arrangement was finalised after extensive discussions with alliance partners. He emphasised that the process was carried out in a democratic manner, ensuring fair representation for all parties involved.

Rural local bodies in 4 states get Rs 1,142 cr boost

NEW DELHI

The Centre on Friday announced the release of over Rs 1,142 crore to strengthen rural local bodies in Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Punjab and Mizoram during FY 2025–26 as part of the 15th Finance Commission's untied grants. For Madhya Pradesh, a sum of Rs 631.91 crore has been released as the second instalment of Untied Grants of FY 2025-26 for 51 eligible district panchayats, 300 block panchayats and 22,933 gram panchayats (GPs). Further, Rs 1.26 crore of withheld portion of the first instalment of untied grants for FY 2025-26 has also been released to some panchayats. In the case of Punjab, the second instalment of untied grants for FY 2025–26 amounting to Rs. 222 crore has been allocated for 13,262 eligible gram panchayats, 150 eligible block panchayats and all 22 district panchayats. While for Mizoram, the second instalment of untied grants amounting to Rs 14.80 crore have been released. These funds are for all 816 eligible Village Councils of the State.

Cong slams Centre over fuel prices, LPG crunch

NEW DELHI

Congress leader Pawan Khera highlighted the difficulties faced by common people in accessing essential resources such as LPG cylinders.

Addressing the media, he said in several parts of the country, people are forced to stand in long queues or purchase cylinders at inflated prices due to shortages and black marketing. He emphasised that ensuring easy and affordable access to LPG cylinders should be treated as a national priority. He also pointed out the need to prevent shortages of petrol and diesel, warning that rising fuel prices are contributing to inflation and increasing the financial burden on citizens.

He also drew attention to challenges faced by the agricultural sector, claiming that nearly 60,000 tonnes of basmati rice are currently stuck at sea.

Khera alleged that despite visible hardships, including instances of black marketing near the national capital, the government has failed to respond effectively. He accused the Prime Minister of ignoring ground realities, stating.

XXXXXX

Panic rush to fuel stations trigger chaos in Kashmir

SRINAGAR

Panic gripped Kashmir Valley on Wednesday as motorists, trucks and owners of other conveyances mobbed petrol and diesel pumps to buy fuel.

This is happening despite announcements made by the Indian Oil Corporation that there is no shortage of petroleum products in Jammu and Kashmir.

People started mobbing refilling stations in Kashmir as news spread from one area to another, saying acute energy crisis was gripping the Valley.

At many places, police personnel were seen regulating the rush while those reporting with jerrycans, tins and other carrying vessels were refused any fuel supply.

Chaos was worst confounded in Srinagar city as one after the other petrol/diesel pumps shut down, claiming that they had run out of supplies.

Authorities have been asking people not to resort to panic buying as stocks of petrol/diesel and LPG are enough to last for 20 days in the Valley.

Greed and panic made official statements fall on deaf ears in Srinagar and elsewhere in the Valley.

Owners of refilling stations told that panic buying by vehicle owners was likely to create an artificial crisis that would not be taken care of by routine and normal tanker arrivals carrying fuel at their stations.

The most confusing situation was that instead of advising and motivating vehicle owners not to resort to panic and unwarranted buying, police was busy trying to ensure smooth and regulated buying at petrol pumps without making announcements that such knee-jerk buying was fraught with risks of creating an artificial scarcity of fuel.

'No fuel shortage in India, avoid panic buying'

In an official communication, the state-run oil marketing company said that "rumours of petrol and diesel shortages are completely unfounded," and reassured citizens that India has ample fuel reserves. It further clarified that supply chains are functioning normally without any disruption. The statement comes amid growing public concern in some regions following unverified claims circulating on social media, which triggered panic buying at certain fuel stations.

People are already lined up in long queues trying to buy LPG cylinders as officials said one LPG cylinder per authorised connection would be issued in 25 days in urban areas and in 35 days in rural areas.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
Office of the Executive Engineer, No.1 Buildings Division, S.J.P. Campus. Bengaluru. Phone: 080-22255210
No. EE/Bld.1/AE-4/AE- LH/2025-26/88 Date: 23.03.2026

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)

The above Department invites Tenders through e-procurement portal of GoK **(http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)** from eligible Tenderers for providing painting, polishing, water proofing, flyproof mesh, toilet renovation, construction of Mass Production Unit, construction of supervisor/labour Quarters, providing and improvements to fire fighting and solar system works and other development works, total of 05 works at various notified places. Approx. value of work: **Min. Rs. 10.12 lakhs, Max. Rs. 82.80 lakhs. EMD: Min. Rs. 25,500/-, Max. Rs. 82,900/-.** Cost of Document: As in e-portal. Period of Completion for each work: from 02 Months to 09 Months (including rainy season). Last date for downloading Tender through e-procurement portal and submission through online: For **Sl. No. 1 to 3: 30.03.2026 up to 5.00 PM,** For **Sl. No. 4 & 5: 01.04.2026 up to 5.00 PM.** Date of opening the Tender: as per e-procurement guidelines. Further information, brief details of the works, Indent No.s approx. amount, EMD, Reservation, No. of Call etc. can be obtained from the above office or from e-procurement portal **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Executive Engineer.
DIPR/DD-C.P/6437/KSMCA/2025-26

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕುಟುಂಬ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ
ಕೊಠಡಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 207, 2ನೇ ಮಹಡಿ, ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಸಂಕೀರ್ಣ ಭವನ, ಬೀರಸಂದ್ರ ಗ್ರಾಮ, ಕುಂದಾಣ ಹೋಬಳಿ, ದೇವನಹಳ್ಳಿ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ,
ದೂರವಾಣಿ: 080-29787452, ಇ-ಮೇಲ್: dhobangalorerural@gmail.com
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಸಿಬ್ಬಂದಿ(4)/02/2026-27 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 24.03.2026

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
(ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ) ದ್ವಿ ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿ.

2026-27 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ವರ್ಷಕ್ಕೆ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿನ ದೇವನಹಳ್ಳಿ/ನೆಲಮಂಗಲ/ದೊಡ್ಡಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ/ಹೊಸಕೋಟೆ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನ ಪ್ರಾಥಮಿಕ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಕೇಂದ್ರಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಮತ್ತು ವಿಜಯಪುರ/ತ್ಯಾಮಗೊಂಡ್ಲು ಸಮುದಾಯ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಕೇಂದ್ರಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಗ್ರೂಪ್-ಡಿ, ಡಿಇಓ, ಫಾರ್ಮಾಸಿಸ್ಟ್, ಲ್ಯಾಬ್ ಟೆಕ್ನೀಷಿಯನ್ ಹಾಗೂ ವಾಹನ ಚಾಲಕರನ್ನು ಹೊರಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಆಧಾರದ ಮೇಲೆ ದ್ವಿ-ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ರೆಫರೆನ್ಸ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ DHFWS/2025-26/SE2096

Commencement of Down load of e-tender form website http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in	From 25.03.2026 After 11:00 am
Last date for queries through on-line	06.04.2026 Up to 5:00 pm
Last date and time for uploading of e-tender in e-procurement platform on or before	08.04.2026 Up to 5:00 pm
The Technical Bid will be opened Online by the Authorized Officer on	10.04.2026 at 11:00 am
Original Documents Verifications	Shall be intimated
The Price Bid will be opened Online by the Authorized Officer on	Shall be intimated
Place of opening of tenders and address for communication	DISTRICT HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE OFFICE, BANGALORE RURAL No.207, II nd floor, District Adm Block, Vishwanthapura, Devanahalli, Bangalore Rural Dist

ಸಹಿ/-ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕು.ಕ.ಅಧಿಕಾರಿ
ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ.
ವಾ.ಸಾ.ಸಂ.ಇ/ವಾಪ್ರ/6449/ಶರಡಿ ಸಾಯಿ/2025-26

GRATER BENGALURU AUTHORITY
BENGALURU WEST CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture, Zone-1, Rajarajeshwari Nagara, Bengaluru-560 091.
No: SADH/RRN/TENDER/05/2025-26 Date: 25.03.2026

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM RE-TENDER (IFT)
(Two Cover System) (Through GOK KPP Portal only)

The Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture (Rajarajeshwari Nagara) (Referred to as Employer in these documents) invites tenders to implement in accordance with KTPP Rules 2000, from eligible and experienced Person/Agencies/Firms (Referred to as Tenderers in these documents) registered in Labour department for Maintenance of Parks.

Sl. No.	Name of work
1	Supply of water through tanker for Parks, Medians and Circles in Rajarajeshwari Nagar Constituency. **Estimate Cost:** Rs.25,00,000/-. **EMD Amount:** Rs.50,000/-. **Stipulated period of completion:** 6 Months. **Category:** Others.
2	Supply of water through tanker for Parks, Medians and Circles in Yeshwanthapura Constituency. **Estimate Cost:** Rs.25,00,000/-. **EMD Amount:** Rs.50,000/-. **Stipulated period of completion:** 6 Months. **Category:** Others.

Calendar of Events: 1) Date of Notification: **25.03.2026.** 2) Tender can be downloaded from KPP Portal of GOK from : **27.03.2026** onwards. 3) Pre-bid meeting: **30.03.2026 at 12.30 p.m.** 4) Tender Closing date: **04.04.2026**, **at.5.00 p.m.** 5) Technical Bid opening date: **06.04.2026 at 11.00 a.m.** onwards. 6) Financial bid opening date: **After approval of Technical Bid.**
Further details can be had from the office of the above during office hours on all working days or from the KPP portal website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture, Bengaluru West City Corporation Zone-1, Rajarajeshara Nagar

Government of Karnataka
Office of the Executive Engineer
Panchayath Raj Engineering Division, Chamarajanagara-571313

SHORT-TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
NO.40/2025-26/DATED: 25-03-2026 (Two Cover System)

On behalf of the Governor of Karnataka the Executive Engineer, PanchayathRaj Engineering Division, **Chamarajanagara** invites tender in co-ordination with e- procurement portal platform, Bangalore. Tender format as per **KW-3** through e- procurement under the Head of Account **5054** for **Hanur** Taluk. Date of application submission for tender document and submission of filled tender through online **Date: 27- 03-2026 to 21-04-2026 upto 16.00 hours.** Last date for clarifications/ queries on tender **Date: 18-04-2026 upto 16.00 Hours.** date of opening of technical bid of the tender **Date: 23-04-2026 after 17.00 hours.** After the approval of Technical bid the Financial Bid will be opened. Tender Form Fee: As per e-procurement Details as belows.

Sl No.	Name of work	Estimate Cost (Rs.in Lakhs)	Approximate Value of work (Rs. in lakhs)	Earnest Money Deposit (in Rs)	Contractor Eligibility
1	ಹನೂರು ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು ಮರ್ದಾನ ಗೈಬ್ ದರ್ಗಾಗೆ ಹೋಗುವ ರಸ್ತೆ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ	100.00	-	1,69,190.00	Class - III & above

For more details visit website: htpp://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in or contact the Executive Engineer, Panchayath Raj Engineering Division, Chamarajangara (Ph: **08226-223019**) during office hours. AE Phone No: **8073339806**

Executive Engineer,
PRED Division, Chamarajangara
NO DIPR: CHANAGAR; 814! 2025-26

CHIKKAMAGALURU INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES, CHIKKAMAGALURU
(Autonomous Medical Institution, Government of Karnataka)
Teguru, Chikkamagaluru-577133.
Ph: 08262-295347 E-Mail: directorcims2020@gmail.com
Website: https://cimschikkamagaluru.karnataka.gov.in
No: CIMS/AP(Contract)/04/2025-26 Date: 24.03.2026

INTERVIEW NOTIFICATION

Subject: Recruitment of the Teaching posts of Assistant Professor in various departments "ON CONTRACT" at Chikkamagaluru Institute of Medical Sciences, Chikkamagaluru.

Applications are invited from the eligible candidates confirming to By-law & Cadre and Recruitment rules of the institute and NMC TEQ norms for the teaching post of Assistant Professor "ON CONTRACT" in various departments. The eligible candidates shall also comply to the roster requirements as mentioned therein. The details of various categories of post in the Residual parent cadres and Local cadre are also shown therein. Date of the Interview will be notified later. It is proposed to conduct walk-in Interview at office of the Director, Chikkamagaluru Institute of Medical Sciences, Teguru village, Chikkamagaluru.

Candidates are required to submit the duty filled application in the prescribed format (Preferable Typed) along with 2 sets of documents duly attested by Gazette officer and with 2 recent passport size photographs & a Demand Draft of Rs.1000/- (Non-Refundable, drawn on or after the date of this notification) drawn in favor of The Director, Chikkamagaluru Institute of Medical Sciences payable at Chikkamagaluru so as to reach on or before 5:00 PM, 07-04-2026 through register post or by hand (Muddam) to the office of the Director, Chikkamagaluru Institute of Medical Sciences, Teguru village, Chikkamagaluru-577133. Application received after specified date and time shall not be considered. Thepost and the department for which the candidate is applying may be super scribed on the cover in BLOCK LETTERS.

Assistant Professor

Sl. No	Department	No. of posts	No. of posts in Residual Parent Cadre	No. of posts in Local Cadre
1	Anatomy	01	27	05
2	Anesthesiology	04		
3	Community Medicine	03		
4	Forensic Medicine	01		
5	General Medicine	05		
6	Microbiology	02		
7	OtoRhinolaryngology	02		
8	Pharmacology	02		
9	Biochemistry	01		
10	Peadiatrics	02		
11	Radio-Diagnosis	02		
12	General Surgery	02		
13	Orthopedics	01		
14	Ophthalmology	01		
15	Obstetrics & Gynecology	02		
16	Physiology	01		
	Total	**32**	**27**	**05**

Interview will be held at THE OFFICE OF DIRECTOR, CHIKKAMAGALURU INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES, Teguru village, CHIKKAMAGALURU. This appointment shall be made purely ON CONTRACT FOR A PERIOD OF 6 (SIX) MONTHS which can be extended based on the satisfactory completion report submitted by the respective department heads. For detailed Notification, the interested candidate can login to the Institute website for more details.

Sd/- Dean and Director, Chikkamagaluru Institute of Medical Sciences, Chikkamagaluru
DIPR/ckm//ksmca/25-26/201/2076

CH CLASSIFIEDS
TO PLACE A CLASSIFIED AD CONTACT: 080-41209042

QUICK READ

BJP hails UCC Bill in Gujarat; RJD calls it 'agenda'

NEW DELHI

While the BJP leaders on Wednesday hailed the passage of the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) Bill 2026 in the Gujarat Legislative Assembly, urging for 'one nation, one Constitution', the Opposition Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) opposed it's passage, calling it the party's 'agenda'. The Gujarat Assembly passed the Bill, introducing a common legal framework for civil matters such as marriage, divorce, maintenance, and inheritance across communities and religions. Speaking outside the Parliament, BJP MP Shashank Mani said, I welcome the Bill. I think there should be 'one nation and one Constitution'. There should not be two types of civil codes. If Gujarat has done this work, I welcome it, and I believe other states should also adopt it.

India-Taiwan trade records 17% growth to scale $12.5 bn mark

New Delhi

The bilateral trade between India and Taiwan recorded a robust 17 per cent increase in 2025, compared with the previous year, to touch the $12.5 billion mark, according figures compiled by the Taipei Economic and Cultural Center (TECC) here. India's exports to Taiwan amounted to $3.3 billion, consisting of mineral fuels, aluminium, iron, steel, organic chemicals and plastics while Taiwan's exports to India amounted to $9.2 billion, comprising mainly electronic integrated circuits, plastics, organic chemicals, electrical machinery, iron and steel.

LoP Gandhi never attends all-party meetings: RLD MP

NEW DELHI

RLD MP Rajkumar Sangwan on Wednesday claimed that he has never seen the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, attending all-party meetings. He said that such meetings are crucial for ensuring the smooth functioning of Parliament. Sangwan said that if Opposition leaders have concerns or issues, they should raise them during these meetings so that proceedings can continue without disruption. After this incident, whenever all-party meetings have been held, I have not seen Rahul Gandhi attend any of them so far, he said. Sangwan further questioned LoP Gandhi's absence, stating, He never comes, so how can one expect that he will attend now.

Centre steps up fertiliser supply monitoring amid global tensions

Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan chaired a high-level meeting to assess fertiliser availability and strengthen preparedness for the upcoming Kharif season.

NEW DELHI

During the meeting, the minister emphasised the urgent need to maintain an equitable and consistent supply of fertilisers to farmers, while also addressing concerns related to black marketing and hoarding. He directed officials to take strict action against any attempts to exploit the global crisis for profit, particularly in the distribution of fertilisers and seeds.

Chouhan underlined the importance of improving transparency in the distribution system and instructed authorities to accelerate the implementation of 'Farmer IDs'. This initiative is expected to streamline the supply chain and ensure that benefits reach genuine farmers without leakages or irregularities. He also indicated that he would soon convene meetings with chief ministers and state agriculture ministers to strengthen coordination between the Centre and states.The review meeting also assessed the availability of agro-chemicals and essential gases required for seed processing. Special attention was given to ensuring adequate packaging materials, particularly for milk and other agricultural products, which could face supply disruptions due to global developments. The minister directed officials to coordinate closely with the Ministry of Petroleum and other relevant departments to maintain smooth supplies.

In a significant step, the government has set up a dedicated Special Cell to monitor the agricultural sector round the clock. This cell will provide weekly updates to the minister on the availability of fertilisers, seeds, and pesticides, enabling timely interventions if shortages arise.

Chouhan urged senior officials to adopt a proactive approach during this critical period and reiterated the government's commitment to safeguarding farmers' interests. He highlighted that agricultural production in India has increased substantially over the past decade and noted ongoing efforts to boost farmer incomes through enhanced procurement at minimum support prices and other supportive measures.

Owaisi rejects funding allegations ahead of Bengal polls

KOLKATA

Speaking at a press conference held in the Dum Dum area on the northern outskirts of Kolkata, Owaisi responded sharply to the accusations leveled by the Trinamool Congress leadership.

The ruling party in West Bengal had alleged that the All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen was being funded by the Bharatiya Janata Party to split minority votes and indirectly benefit the saffron camp in the forthcoming two-phase Assembly elections.

Owaisi ridiculed the allegation and used sarcasm to counter the claim. He remarked that if such accusations were true, he would be willing to hand over ninety percent of the alleged funds to Trinamool Congress general secretary Abhishek Banerjee. He added that he would retain only five percent for himself and give the remaining five percent to his associate Humayun Kabir. Kabir, who was also present at the press conference, recently formed his own political outfit after being suspended from the Trinamool Congress.

The AIMIM has entered into a seat-sharing arrangement with Kabir's newly formed party for the West Bengal Assembly elections. Both parties are focusing their campaigns primarily on constituencies with a significant minority population, aiming to establish a political presence in the state.

Rejecting the funding allegations outright, Owaisi questioned the logic behind the claims. He pointed out that the Bharatiya Janata Party's rise in West Bengal, from securing only three seats in the 2016 Assembly elections to winning seventy-seven seats in 2021, could not be attributed to his party. He further questioned whether AIMIM had played any role in the growth of the BJP's parliamentary strength.

Owaisi concluded by asserting that such allegations were an attempt to deflect attention from real political issues and to undermine emerging political alternatives in the state.

Calcutta HC directs ECI to ensure security at all polling stations

KOLKATA

A division bench of the Calcutta High Court, on Wednesday, directed the Election Commission of India (ECI) to make adequate safety arrangement besides making sufficient provisions for drinking water as well as other basic amenities for the voters at all polling stations that would be utilised for the upcoming two-phase Assembly elections in West Bengal next month.

The division bench of the Calcutta High Court's Chief Justice Sujoy Paul and Justice Partha Sarathi Sen gave this direction to the ECI on a public interest litigation filed by the West Bengal Bharatiya Janata Party President and Rajya Sabha member, Samik Bhattacharya, seeking the court's intervention to ensure 100 per cent booth-level security in the upcoming Assembly elections in the state on April 23 and April 29. However, the division bench, at the same time, said that the petitioner did not have the authority on whether any central agency or a state agency would be made accountable for ensuring the state polls peacefully.

The division bench of the Calcutta High Court said that the decision on this issue would be taken by the ECI.

The division bench of Calcutta High Court also added that the court would ensure that the voters going to the polling stations to cast their votes are provided with basic amenities like drinking water, and that the security systems at the polling stations and polling booths are adequate or not.

During the court hearing in the matter on March 18, the division bench raised the question of whether it was not also the duty of the West Bengal government, along with the ECI, to ensure free, fair, and violence-free polls in the state.

Rahul postpones Kerala visit amid Sonia's hospitalisation

KOZHIKODE

Rahul Gandhi, who previously represented Wayanad in the Lok Sabha, was scheduled to visit Kozhikode to campaign for the Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF). His presence was expected to boost the morale of party workers and provide momentum in key constituencies, particularly in the politically significant Malabar region where electoral contests are often closely fought.However, due to Sonia Gandhi's health condition requiring immediate medical attention, Rahul Gandhi decided to remain in Delhi, prioritising family responsibilities over political engagements. Party sources indicated that the decision was taken at short notice, resulting in the postponement of his visit. While no new date has been announced yet, Congress leaders expressed confidence that he would join the campaign at a later stage, depending on the situation.In response to the change in plans, Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge has stepped in to lead the campaign efforts in Kerala. Kharge is expected to address multiple public meetings and engage with party workers across the state, focusing on strengthening support for UDF candidates ahead of the Assembly elections scheduled for April 9.

PIL filed in High Court against Punjab Police's Rs 80 FIR download fee

CHANDIGARH

A Public Interest Litigation (PIL) has been filed before the Punjab and Haryana High Court challenging the imposition of a service charge for downloading First Information Reports (FIRs) from the Punjab Police's PP Saanjh Portal. Social media trends

The plea, filed by advocates Abhishek Malhotra and Vasu Ranjan Shandilya, contended that the Punjab government's decision to levy a fee of Rs 80 for downloading FIRs is "illegal, ultra vires and violative of Articles 14, 19(1)(a) and 21 of the Constitution of India". According to the petition, the impugned charge is "in blatant

violation of Section 173(2) of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (BNSS), which mandates that a copy shall be given forthwith, free of cost, to the informant or the victim".The plea further relies on the Supreme Court's judgment in Youth Bar Association of India v. Union of India, which directed that FIRs be uploaded online within 24 hours to ensure free and transparent access.

Supreme Court declines plea against Centre's 'Vande Mataram' circular

During the hearing, the CJI Kant-led Bench repeatedly underlined that the circular does not make the singing of 'Vande Mataram' mandatory

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday declined to entertain a plea challenging the Centre's recent circular regarding the singing of the national song 'Vande Mataram' at official and public functions, observing that the petition was premature as the guidelines do not mandate compliance or prescribe any penal consequences.

A Bench of Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant, and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and Vipul M Pancholi, remarked that the January 28 notification issued by the Union government was merely advisory in nature.

During the hearing, the CJI Kant-led Bench repeatedly underlined that the circular does not make the singing of 'Vande Mataram' mandatory. We will hear all this when there are penal consequences or when it is made mandatory. This notification is advisory. No penal consequences, also, the apex court remarked.

Senior advocate Sanjay Hegde, appearing for the petitioner, argued that even in the absence of explicit penalties, the advisory could create a situation of indirect compulsion.

He argued that individuals refusing to sing or stand in respect of the national song may face social pressure or discrimination. There is always a burden on those who refuse. In the garb of an advisory, people can be compelled to conform, Hegde submitted, adding that patriotism cannot be compelled and that the Constitution must protect individual conscience.

However, the CJI Kant-led Bench said that the apprehensions raised by the petitioner regarding possible discrimination were speculative at this stage. If there are any penal consequences or instances of discrimination, you are free to approach this Court, the apex court said, while dismissing the plea.

The petition had challenged the Centre's circular, which suggested that 'Vande Mataram' may be sung in educational institutions and public functions.

The government has maintained that the guideline is intended to promote respect for the national song and is not enforceable by law. The issue also comes amid renewed focus on the historical and cultural significance of 'Vande Mataram'.

TN civic staff seek poll panel nod for pending promotions

CHENNAI

A key association representing ministerial staff in Tamil Nadu's municipal corporations has approached the Election Commission of India, seeking special permission to implement a long-pending government order on promotions.

The request comes after the process was halted due to the enforcement of the Model Code of Conduct ahead of the upcoming Assembly elections.

In a detailed representation submitted to Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, State Chief Electoral Officer Archana Patnaik, and Chief Secretary N Muruganandham, the Tamil Nadu Municipal Corporation Ministerial Staff Association highlighted the prolonged delay in promotions and its impact on employees. The association stated that hundreds of staff members have been awaiting career advancement for several years, leading to growing frustration within the workforce.

The delay, according to the association, is linked to the implementation of the Tamil Nadu Urban Local Bodies Rules, 2023. These revised rules introduced new eligibility criteria, including additional educational qualifications, extended service requirements, and mandatory departmental examinations. While amendments were introduced in March 2025 to address some of these concerns, several practical challenges continue to persist.

One major issue raised by the association is the late approval of the syllabus for the departmental examinations, which was finalised only in April 2025. This left employees with very limited time to prepare and qualify, making it difficult for many eligible candidates to meet the new requirements within the stipulated timeframe.

R. Subramanian, founder-president of the association, pointed out that the current system is impractical for a large number of employees and risks denying them fair opportunities for promotion. Invoking provisions within the rules that allow relaxation in cases of implementation challenges, the association has proposed a one-time exemption. It has requested that promotions be carried out under the earlier Tamil Nadu Municipal Corporation Service Rules of 1996, which were in effect until March 2023.However, the enforcement of the Model Code of Conduct on March 15, in view of the April 23 Assembly elections, has effectively stalled all such administrative decisions.

As promotions during the election period require prior approval from the Election Commission, the association has urged the poll body to grant clearance and resolve the long-standing issue.

GUJARAT PASSES UCC BILL

BJP govt committed to upliftment of all: Nadda

NEW DELHI

Union Health Minister JP Nadda on Wednesday welcomed the passage of the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) Bill, 2026, in Gujarat, asserting that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the government remains committed to eliminating discrimination and ensuring equal rights for all citizens.The Gujarat Legislative Assembly passed the UCC Bill, 2026, on Tuesday, seeking to establish a common legal framework governing civil matters such as

marriage, divorce, maintenance, and inheritance across communities, irrespective of religion.The state government stated the legislation is aimed at ensuring equality before the law and addressing disparities arising from religion-based personal laws. It maintained that the Code applies only to civil matters and does not interfere with religious beliefs or practices.Reacting to the development, Nadda said in a post on X, Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji, the BJP government is resolutely committed to eradicating all forms of discrimination among the citizens and granting equal rights to all through the Uniform Civil Code (UCC).The move places Gujarat among states that have taken legislative steps towards implementing a Uniform Civil Code, after Uttarakhand, while Goa continues to have a long-standing common civil law framework. It is heartening that, following Uttarakhand, the passage of the Uniform Civil Code bill in Gujarat state now is a commendable step. I extend my heartfelt congratulations to Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel ji and all the legislators who supported this bill, Nadda added.Taking an indirect swipe at the Opposition, the Union Minister further said, appeasing any particular community by granting special rights, driven by the greed for vote banks and escalating a policy of appeasement, is an insult to democracy.

QUICK READ

Israel sees Iran threat blocking India trade

TEL AVIV

Former Israeli spokesperson Eylon Levy said neutralizing Iran's military threats is vital for India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) success. Levy stressed that ending Tehran's ability to blockade the Strait of Hormuz or attack civilian targets is crucial for regional prosperity. He accused Iran of sabotaging trade integration and dismissing U.S. diplomatic efforts, calling the regime defiant and ideologically opposed to peace. Levy claimed Israel and the U.S. are systematically limiting Iran's military capabilities, while Tehran continues missile and drone attacks.

Baloch schools suspend internet over security

BALOCHISTAN

The Balochistan government has extended school closures until March 31 and suspended mobile internet in cities including Quetta, Noshki, Kharan, and Mastung over security concerns. All public and private institutions, from schools to universities and cadet colleges, will remain shut. Officials said the move safeguards students, staff, and ensures administrative control. Mobile internet suspension affects daily communication and access to information. Authorities stressed strict enforcement, though no timeline for internet restoration was given. Critics warn these steps disrupt education and public life.

Iran launches 80th wave against Israel

TEHRAN

Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) announced the 80th wave of its Operation True Promise 4, targeting strategic points and military centers in northern Israel and U.S. bases in the region. The Aerospace Force coordinated attacks alongside Lebanon's Hezbollah, striking Safed, Tel Aviv, Kiryat Shmona, and Bnei Brak with missiles and drones. Iranian officials emphasized continued retaliation until "complete victory," criticizing U.S. negotiation claims. The IRGC warned that northern assembly points, Gaza, and regional military installations would face sustained strikes.

Iran rejects peace talks as tensions rise

Iran denies peace talks with the US, while Israel continues military actions, escalating tensions and regional instability in West Asia.

TEHRAN

Iran has officially denied that any peace negotiations are happening with the United States, despite recent claims that a deal might be near.

Iranian Ambassador Reza Amiri Moghadam dismissed reports of secret talks, blaming the ongoing conflict on what he described as a "betrayal" by American leadership. This statement highlights the deep distrust that continues to fuel the current crisis in West Asia.

Adding to the tension, Israel's representative at the United Nations, Danny Danon, confirmed that Israel is not part of any peace discussions. Instead, he emphasized that military actions against Iran will continue. Israel remains focused on stopping Iran from developing advanced weapons and missiles. Danon pointed out that while Israel seeks regional stability, Iran has taken aggressive actions against many countries in a very short time, calling them a major source of trouble.

The situation remains confusing as President Donald Trump recently suggested that Iran was ready to make a deal. He claimed that the U.S. had already weakened Iran's military, leaving their air force and navy unable to respond. However, the reality on the ground tells a different story.

Conflict is still raging, with Israel carrying out airstrikes and Iran launching its 80th wave of retaliatory attacks.

Experts say that with both sides refusing to back down and no official talks confirmed, the hope for a ceasefire remains slim.

The region stays in a fragile state, with both military forces and civilians caught in a cycle of violence that shows no sign of stopping.

Argentina lauds India for smart energy moves

ARGENTINA

Argentina is giving a big thumbs-up to India's clever plan to keep the lights on and engines running. As conflicts in West Asia shake up global fuel prices, Argentina's ambassador, Mariano A. Caucino, called India's strategy to find new energy sources "very wise."

For years, many countries relied on just a few neighbors for oil and gas.

However, under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India has flipped the script. Instead of putting all its eggs in one basket, India now buys energy from 41 different countries—a huge jump from just 27 a decade ago. This safety net ensures that if one region faces trouble, Indian homes and businesses don't have to suffer. Ambassador Caucino believes Argentina is the perfect partner to help. While Argentina is massive, it has a small population, meaning it produces far more energy, minerals, and food than its people can use. "We have plenty to share," he suggested, noting that Argentina is ready to fuel India's growing economy.

The Prime Minister recently reassured leaders that India is more prepared than ever. With bigger storage tanks for crude oil and better refineries, the nation is building a shield against global chaos. Beyond big industry, the government is also pushing to bring piped natural gas and cooking gas directly to more households.

As the world watches the complex tensions in the Middle East, this growing friendship between India and Argentina offers a hopeful path toward a more stable and powered future.

Nuclear watchdog warns after strike on Iran

VIENNA

The world's nuclear watchdog is calling for "maximum restraint" after a projectile hit a major nuclear power plant in Iran.

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) issued the urgent warning following reports that the Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant was struck during ongoing regional fighting.

In a statement, the IAEA confirmed that Iranian officials reported the hit but reassured the public that the plant itself was not damaged. Thankfully, no staff members were injured, and the facility is still running normally. However, IAEA Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi warned that playing with fire near nuclear sites creates terrifying risks for everyone.

This close call happened on a day of widespread chaos. In nearby Kuwait, a drone attack set a fuel tank on fire at the international airport, though emergency teams managed to stop the blaze before anyone was hurt.

Meanwhile, U.S. President Donald Trump claimed the war is essentially over, stating that Iran's navy and air force have been destroyed. He suggested Iran is now begging for a deal. However, Israel isn't slowing down. Israeli military leaders said their strikes in Iran and Lebanon will continue as planned, regardless of talk about peace.

US SENDS MORE TROOPS DESPITE PEACE CLAIMS

WASHINGTON

The Pentagon is reportedly preparing to send more soldiers to the Middle East, even as President Donald Trump tells the world that the war with Iran might soon be over.

While the President claims victory is near, military planners are getting ready to deploy members of the famous 82nd Airborne Division.

According to reports from CBS News, this new mission could involve around 1,500 troops. These forces include specialized commanders and ground teams.

This move comes as the conflict enters its fourth week, showing a clear gap between the hopeful words coming from the White House and the reality of military preparation on the ground.

President Trump recently painted a picture of total control, stating that U.S. planes are flying freely over Tehran.

He suggested that Iran is "totally defeated" and that peace talks are already happening. "I think we are going to end it," the President told reporters, implying that the U.S. now holds all the cards.

However, leaders in Iran are telling a very different story. They mocked the idea of peace talks, claiming the U.S. is essentially "negotiating with itself." To prove they are still fighting, Iran released videos of their latest missile strikes against U.S. and Israeli positions.

Iranian officials insist they won't even consider stopping until all Western military operations in the region come to a halt.

Taiwan remains alert as Chinese forces close in

TAIPEI

Taiwan's military is on high alert after a sharp increase in Chinese activity around the island. Officials reported seeing 16 military planes and 10 navy ships circling nearby, marking a busy and tense 24 hours for the region's defenders. According to Taiwan's Ministry of National Defense, 13 of those aircraft crossed the "median line"—an invisible boundary in the sea that usually keeps the two sides apart. These planes flew into Taiwan's air defense zone from both the southwest and the east, effectively surrounding the island's airspace. This follows a similar move yesterday, showing that China is stepping up its presence in the area.

The disagreement between the two is decades old. China claims Taiwan has always been part of its territory and point to history to back it up. However, Taiwan operates like any other country, with its own elected leaders, a strong economy, and its own army. To keep the peace, Taiwan hasn't officially declared independence, but it remains firm about protecting its way of life.

Taiwan's military leaders said they are watching every move on their radar screens and are ready to react if any Chinese vessels or planes get too close. "We have monitored the situation and responded," the ministry shared in a brief public update.

China watches Iran conflict for Taiwan lessons

BEIJING

China is keeping a sharp eye on the U.S.-led military campaign in Iran, but not just for the daily news. Experts say Beijing is treating the conflict as a massive classroom, searching for clues on how to handle its own future plans regarding Taiwan.

By watching how the U.S. operates, the Chinese military has identified five major lessons.

First, they believe internal loyalty is everything; this explains why leader Xi Jinping has recently cleaned house within his military to ensure everyone is on the same page.

They also noted that having the most firepower usually wins the day and that relying too much on talk—or diplomacy—can be a costly mistake.

One of the most interesting observations involves "decapitation strikes," which are attacks aimed at a country's top leaders. China noticed these haven't forced Iran to give up, suggesting such tactics might not work against Taiwan either. Beijing is also carefully tracking how many missiles the U.S. is firing.

Thousands pray for Lama's long life on 90th birthday

DHARAMSHALA

Over five,000 devotees from across the globe gathered at the Tsuglagkhang Temple for a moving prayer ceremony dedicated to the 14th Dalai Lama.

The grand event, organized by three major Tibetan associations, was held to celebrate the spiritual leader's 90th birthday and to pray for his continued health and long life.

The temple grounds were filled with a vibrant mix of monks, nuns, and international followers. Led by the spiritual leader Ling Rinpoche, the air was thick with the sound of traditional chants and songs. For many in attendance, the day was the fulfillment of a lifelong dream. Sol Miia, a devotee who traveled all the way from Ukraine, described the experience as overwhelming, noting that seeing so many people smiling and dancing in honor of a "holy person" brought her to tears of joy.

Dawa Tsering, a member of the Tibetan Parliament, explained that the gathering was about more than just a birthday; it was a global call for peace.

Tibetans from different regions united to show their deep reverence for their leader, who remains a symbol of hope and compassion for millions. As the ceremony concluded, participants shared a collective sense of spiritual renewal.

Bangladesh says 'thank you, India'

DHAKA

As Bangladesh prepares to celebrate its hard-won freedom, the nation is taking a moment to look back and say a heartfelt "thank you" to India. State Minister Ishraque Hossain shared a moving tribute, reminding the world that India's hand of friendship in 1971 was the key to saving millions of lives.The timing of this gratitude is deeply symbolic. Today, March 25, is remembered as "Genocide Day." It marks the dark anniversary of a night in 1971 when violent crackdowns began across the region. In those terrifying moments, as homes were destroyed and leaders were arrested, the people of Bangladesh found a powerful ally in India. Minister Hossain explained that without India's military training and resources, the path to victory would have been much longer and far more painful.

RACING TO AI TOP SPOT

INDIA, UK NAMED GLOBAL AI SUPERPOWERS

LONDON

Former British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak has officially labeled India and the United Kingdom as the world's new "AI superpowers."

Speaking at a high-profile technology event in London, Sunak pointed out that both nations are now leading the global race to develop artificial intelligence, with India recently climbing even higher than the UK in international rankings.

The core of this success, according to Sunak, is a shared belief in freedom for inventors. Unlike the European Union, which has strict, top-down rules, or the United States, which handles issues as they come up, India and the UK prefer a "pro-innovation" style. They want to create a space where smart ideas can grow quickly without being tangled in too much red tape.

Safety is also a top priority for this tech partnership. India recently launched its own AI Security Institute, and Sunak is calling for it to work hand-in-hand with the UK's version. By joining forces through the "UK-India Technology Security Initiative," the two countries hope to set the gold standard for how the world handles the risks of new technology.

India's High Commissioner, Vikram Doraiswami, agreed that the timing is perfect. By mixing India's massive scale and fresh talent with the UK's long history of tech expertise, the two nations are building a powerful alliance. This partnership isn't just about computers; it's about making sure the 21st century is defined by responsible, cutting-edge growth that benefits everyone.

SU DO KU

Brain-Bender: Can You Solve It?

	1		2			8		
2		4		8	7		3	5
	7		4			2		
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9	3	1	5	8	7	6	4	2
5	7	2	6	4	1	8	3	9
3	5	8	7	2	9	4	6	1
1	2	4	8	6	3	7	9	5
6	9	7	7	1	5	2	8	3

Solutions to Yesterday's puzzle

Fill a 9×9 grid with numbers so that each row, column and 3×3 section contain all of the digits between 1 and 9.

Mohamed Salah to Leave Liverpool After Glittering Nine-Year Journey

Egyptian star confirms emotional Anfield exit, ending one of club's eras

LONDON

Mohamed Salah has announced he will leave Liverpool FC at the end of the season, bringing the curtain down on a remarkable nine-year spell that cemented his status among the club's all-time greats.

The 33-year-old forward, who has scored 255 goals in 435 appearances, confirmed he had reached an agreement with the club to depart a year before his contract was due to expire.

His exit marks the end of a defining era for Liverpool, during which he was the focal point of one of the most successful teams in recent history.

In an emotional message to fans, Salah described Liverpool as more than just a club, calling it a "passion, history and spirit" that became an inseparable part of his life.

His departure, however, comes amid a slightly strained relationship with the club following a dip in form and a public fallout with manager Arne Slot earlier this season.

Salah joined Liverpool from AS Roma in 2017 and quickly became a global superstar. Alongside Sadio Mane and Roberto Firmino, he formed a formidable attacking trio under Jurgen Klopp, leading the club to multiple trophies, including the UEFA Champions League and two Premier League titles.

Individually, Salah's achievements have been equally impressive.

He won the Premier League Golden Boot four times and currently sits third on Liverpool's all-time scoring list, behind Ian Rush and Roger Hunt.

Despite a dip in form this season and a recent muscle injury, Salah remains determined to finish strongly. The club has stated that he is fully focused on helping Liverpool achieve the best possible results before his departure.

There has been no official confirmation regarding his next destination, though interest from clubs in Saudi Arabia has been reported in recent years.

Leaving as a free agent means Liverpool will not receive a transfer fee.

As the season approaches its conclusion, fans are expected to give Salah a fitting farewell, celebrating a legacy defined by goals, trophies, and unforgettable moments at Anfield.

Bengaluru FC Appoint Pep Munoz as New Head Coach Mid-Season

BENGALURU

Spanish tactician set to take charge as club eyes long-term success.

Bengaluru FC have appointed Spanish coach Pep Munoz as their new head coach midway through the Indian Super League 2026 season, signalling a strategic shift towards long-term development despite a competitive campaign under way.

The 46-year-old, who previously worked with the famed FC Barcelona academy setup, is expected to replace current manager Renedy Singh soon, with formalities for his arrival currently being completed. Munoz could take charge as early as Bengaluru FC's away fixture against FC Goa on April 4.

Renedy Singh, who stepped in as head coach following the departure of Gerard Zaragoza last November, will continue with the club in a different role. Under his guidance, Bengaluru FC had revived their title hopes, recently securing a 3-1 win over Inter Kashi to move within three points of league leaders Mumbai City FC.

The decision to bring in Munoz comes at a crucial juncture, with multiple teams—including Mohun Bagan, Jamshedpur FC and East Bengal—firmly in the title race. However, sources indicate that the club's management is focused on building a sustainable future rather than short-term gains.

Munoz arrives with a strong résumé in Asian football, having enjoyed significant success with PKR Svay Rieng, where he won consecutive Cambodian Premier League titles.

Priyanka, Krishik Strike Gold at National Indoor Athletics Championships

BENGALURU

Karnataka athletes Priyanka C and Krishik Manjunatha delivered standout performances to clinch gold medals on the opening day of the National Indoor Athletics Championships in Bhubaneswar.

Karnataka athletes shine with strong performances on opening day in Bhubaneswar

Priyanka etched her name in history by becoming the first woman to win gold at the Indoor Nationals, securing top spot in the women's 3000m event. The 22-year-old clocked an impressive 9:42.05, finishing ahead of Kajal Kandwade of Gujarat and Odisha's Susmita Tigga.

Competing on an indoor track for the first time, Priyanka admitted the race posed unique challenges, including unfamiliar track conditions and the demands of running multiple laps. Despite this, she displayed composure and endurance to claim the top podium finish.

In the men's section, Krishik Manjunatha secured gold in the 60m hurdles, clocking 7.71 seconds in a closely contested final. He edged out Rathish Pandidurai in a photo finish, capitalising on the absence of national record holder Tejas Shirse. Karnataka's medal tally was further boosted by Kalyan JR, who clinched silver in the men's 800m final. He finished behind favourite Mohammed Afsal, who set a new benchmark in the indoor event with a time of 1:47.86.

Elsewhere, Tamil Nadu's Baranica Elangovan delivered a record-breaking performance in the women's pole vault.

Indian Archers Win Two Bronze, Enter Two Finals at Asia Cup Stage 1

BANGKOK

India delivered a strong all-round performance at the Asia Cup World Ranking Tournament Stage 1, clinching two bronze medals while advancing to two team finals on an eventful second day of competition.

The highlight of the day came from the women's compound team, featuring Chikitha Taniparthi, Raj Kaur and Tejal Salve, who stormed into the final with a narrow 229-226 victory over hosts Thailand in a tense semifinal. The Indian trio showed composure under pressure and will now face Kazakhstan in the gold medal clash, improving on their bronze finish from the previous edition.

In contrast, the men's compound team endured a disappointing semifinal despite dominating the qualification round. The experienced trio of Rajat Chauhan, Rishabh Yadav and Uday Kamboj squandered a five-point lead to lose 233-234 to Vietnam in a dramatic finish. After a perfect start, India faltered in the middle stages as Vietnam delivered back-to-back perfect ends to overturn the deficit.

However, the Indian men bounced back strongly to secure the bronze medal, edging past Bhutan 234-232 in a closely contested playoff.

India also impressed in the recurve section. The men's recurve team, comprising Devaang Gupta, Sukhchain Singh and Juyel Sarkar, advanced to the final with a convincing 5-1 win over Malaysia. The top-seeded Indian side maintained control throughout, combining consistency with timely precision to book a place in the summit clash against Kazakhstan.

Meanwhile, the women's recurve team—Ruma Biswas, Kirti and Ridhi Phor—secured a bronze medal after defeating Malaysia 5-1. The trio produced a dominant performance, building an early lead and maintaining their advantage to finish on the podium after missing out last year.

Overall, India's campaign has been marked by both promise and missed opportunities, with strong showings across categories. With two teams now in the finals scheduled later this week, the contingent will aim to convert their momentum into gold medals and cap off an impressive outing.

Sinner Beats Michelsen to Storm Into Miami Open Quarterfinals

MIAMI

Jannik Sinner continued his impressive run on the ATP Tour, defeating Alex Michelsen in straight sets to reach the quarterfinals of the Miami Open and keep his hopes of completing the "Sunshine Double" alive.

The second-seeded Italian secured a hard-fought 7-5, 7-6 (7/4) victory in one hour and 41 minutes at Hard Rock Stadium. Despite the straight-sets scoreline, Sinner was tested throughout by the 40th-ranked Michelsen, who showed resilience and pushed the match into a tense tiebreak in the second set.

After a closely contested start, Sinner began to assert control late in the opening set. He created multiple break-point opportunities before finally breaking Michelsen in the 11th game and serving out the set with authority.

Michelsen responded strongly in the second set, breaking Sinner early to surge into a 5-2 lead. However, changing conditions and the bright afternoon sunlight appeared to disrupt the American's rhythm. Sinner capitalised, mounting a comeback to level the set and force a tiebreak.

Relying on his powerful serve, which produced 15 aces during the match, Sinner dominated the tiebreak and sealed victory with a decisive service winner.

Reflecting on his performance, he credited his ability to deliver in crucial moments, especially under changing playing conditions.

With this win, Sinner moves one step closer to achieving the rare feat of winning both Indian Wells and Miami in the same season.

He will next face American 19th seed Frances Tiafoe, who advanced after a three-set battle against France's Terence Atmane. Elsewhere, Spain's rising star Martin Landaluce continued his dream run by upsetting Sebastian Korda, while Jiri Lehecka defeated Taylor Fritz to reach the last eight.

Other quarterfinalists include Alexander Zverev, Francisco Cerundolo, Tommy Paul and Arthur Fils. As the tournament intensifies, Sinner's consistency and composure under pressure make him one of the leading contenders for the title.

Karnataka athletes shine with strong performances on opening day in Bhubaneswar

NEW DELHI

The All India Football Federation has decided not to extend the contract of Amelia Valverde as head coach of the Indian women's football team, signalling a shift towards appointing an Indian successor ahead of upcoming international assignments.

The decision was taken following a meeting of the AIFF Technical Committee, chaired by I. M. Vijayan, which recommended exploring domestic coaching options for the senior women's side. Valverde, who was appointed on a short-term deal in January, had overseen the team during the AFC Women's Asian Cup but failed to register a win in the tournament.

Sources indicate that the committee was not satisfied with the team's performance under the Costa Rican coach, prompting the move to look for a fresh approach. In an official statement, the AIFF thanked Valverde for her services and wished her well for the future.

Federation opts for domestic coach as team prepares for crucial fixtures

The federation now faces a race against time to appoint a new coach, with the national team scheduled to face Kenya women's national football team in the semifinals of the FIFA Series 2026 in Nairobi on April 11. Additionally, the SAFF Women's Championship in June adds urgency to the transition. The decision comes amid recent controversy surrounding the team's Asian Cup campaign, including issues related to ill-fitting jerseys that drew criticism and raised questions about administrative lapses. Valanka Alemao, head of the AIFF women's committee, had publicly called for accountability, terming the situation an embarrassment.

In parallel developments, the technical committee has also recommended structural changes across other national teams. Mahesh Gawali has been appointed head coach of the India Under-20 team to streamline player development, while Renjith TA is set to join the senior men's team as assistant coach.

The AIFF also plans to establish a study group to monitor the progress of the Under-23 men's team and identify players ready for senior-level transition.

With a crucial phase ahead, the federation's focus on promoting Indian coaching talent could mark a new direction for women's football in the country.

Tiger Woods Returns, But LA Golf Club Clinch SoFi Cup in Style

PALM BEACH GARDENS

Tiger Woods made a long-awaited return to competitive action, but Los Angeles Golf Club dominated the final to secure a commanding victory and lift the SoFi Cup in the TGL Golf League. Woods, representing Jupiter Links Golf Club, was playing his first match in over a year following multiple injuries, including back surgery. His comeback, however, could not prevent a 9-2 defeat as Los Angeles produced a stunning late surge, highlighted by three consecutive eagles that sealed the contest in emphatic fashion.The 15-hole match ended early in just 10 holes, reflecting the dominance of the Los Angeles side. Woods showed glimpses of his class early on, helping Jupiter Links take a 2-0 lead with a steady birdie and a precise long putt that set up another scoring opportunity.

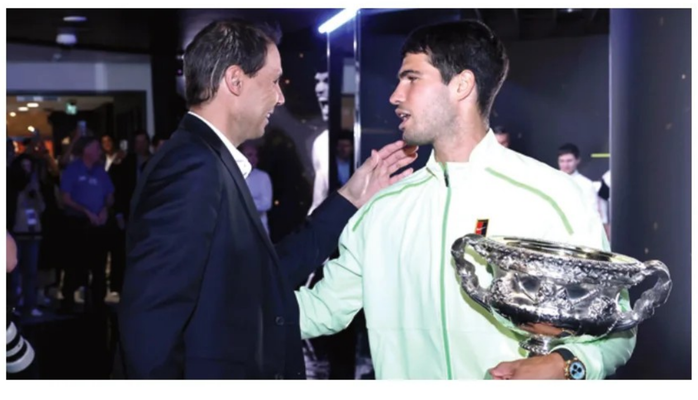
NADAL DEFENDS ALCARAZ, DISMISSES CONCERNS AFTER MIAMI OPEN EXIT

MADRID

Rafael Nadal has come out in strong support of Carlos Alcaraz, dismissing concerns over the young star's recent dip in form following back-to-back defeats in the "Sunshine Double."

Alcaraz, who began the 2026 season in sensational fashion with a 17-match winning streak, has faced unexpected setbacks in recent weeks. After losing to Daniil Medvedev in the semifinals at Indian Wells, the world No. 1 suffered a surprising third-round exit at the Miami Open, going down to Sebastian Korda.

The defeats have sparked widespread debate about Alcaraz's form, but Nadal believes the criticism is unwarranted. Speaking at an event in Madrid, the 22-time Grand Slam champion urged fans and pundits to maintain perspective.



Nadal pointed out that expecting Alcaraz to win every match is unrealistic, especially given his already remarkable achievements at a young age.

The Spaniard highlighted that Alcaraz has already secured multiple Grand Slam titles and established himself as one of the leading players on the tour.

Drawing from his own experience of dealing with intense expectations early in his career, Nadal emphasised that occasional losses are a natural part of the sport.

He noted that two defeats should not trigger alarm, particularly for a player who has consistently performed at the highest level.

Alcaraz's recent struggles come after a highly successful start to the year, including a historic triumph at the Australian Open and another title in Qatar. However, his early exits in Indian Wells and Miami have raised questions as he heads into the crucial clay-court season.

The young Spaniard will now shift focus to upcoming tournaments, including the Monte Carlo Masters and the French Open, where he will be defending significant ranking points.

India, Israel build new trade highway

Prime Minister Modi's Israel visit advances the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor, boosting trade, connectivity, and global supply chain resilience.

NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent landmark visit to Israel has sparked a bold new chapter for global trade. The two nations are now fast-tracking a massive economic corridor designed to link Asia directly to Europe through the Middle East.

This ambitious project, known as the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC), is being built as a trustworthy and open alternative to other global networks. By creating a seamless path of rails and ports, India aims to boost its exports while making international supply chains much more resilient. During a historic speech to the Israeli parliament, Prime Minister Modi highlighted that this partnership is rooted in shared values and mutual trust.

For India, the move marks a significant shift. Instead of staying on the sidelines, the country is actively forming strategic alliances to protect its interests and ensure fair competition. Experts say Israel is a perfect partner because of its stable economy and high-tech infrastructure, which acts as a vital bridge to Western markets.

The project isn't just about moving goods; it's about energy and digital links too. While other global players have already built large transport networks, IMEC promises a more balanced system where every partner benefits equally. To make it a reality, leaders are now focused on building long-term stability and ensuring the project remains transparent for all involved. This new "trade highway" could soon redefine how the world does business, making commerce faster and more secure for everyone.

India-Taiwan trade sees strong growth surge

NEW DELHI

Trade between India and Taiwan grew by 17 percent in 2025, reaching $12.5 billion, according to official data. This marks a strong rise compared to the previous year and shows improving economic ties between the two sides.

India exported goods worth $3.3 billion, including fuels, metals, chemicals, and plastics. In return, Taiwan sent goods worth $9.2 billion, mainly electronic parts, machinery, and steel products.

Speaking at a business event, Estela Chen from the Taipei Economic and Cultural Center said Taiwan is known for its strength in semiconductors and advanced technology. She added that both sides are working closely in areas like electronics, automobiles, and information technology.

More than 300 Taiwanese companies are now active in India. Experts believe there is still huge potential for further growth, especially when compared to Taiwan's trade with larger global economies.

QUICK READ

Kotak Bank detects Rs 150 cr fraud at Panchkula branch

Panchkula

Kotak Mahindra Bank's Panchkula branch is under scrutiny after a Rs 150-crore fraud was discovered in fixed deposits of the municipal corporation. Trouble surfaced when a Rs 58-crore deposit maturity was requested, but the money never arrived. Investigations revealed fake bank statements and forged deposits. Officials suspect funds were diverted into fraudulent accounts.

The bank has started a full review and is cooperating with authorities. This comes shortly after a Rs 590-crore fraud at IDFC First Bank's Chandigarh branch. Further details of the Panchkula case are expected as the probe continues.

India smart TV market sees flat growth 2025

New Delhi

India's smart TV shipments stayed mostly flat in 2025 as weak early-year sales were balanced by festive demand in the second half. Larger screens led the market, with 43-inch models topping shipments and 55-inch-plus TVs driving growth. QLED shipments nearly doubled, while MiniLED gained rapidly from a low base. Mid-range QLEDs became more common, and affordable MiniLED options expanded. Early-year weakness came from cautious consumer spending, but festive offers, financing schemes, and GST cuts helped boost sales later. Analysts expect steady growth in 2026, though rising component costs may pressure prices and margins.

India's infrastructure boom driven by public spending

New Delhi

India's infrastructure sector is transforming rapidly, fueled by public investment rising from Rs 2 lakh crore in FY15 to Rs 12.2 lakh crore in FY27. The surge has spurred private investment, boosted demand for steel and cement, and created jobs. Blended financing, combining government funds, institutional capital, and market instruments, has made India South Asia's top destination for private participation. Platforms like NIIF, REITs, and InvITs mobilized billions, attracting global investors and enabling retail participation. Long-term financing through NABFID and innovative trusts has rotated capital into new projects, supporting sustainable growth and infrastructure expansion nationwide.

Gold, silver prices jump amid West Asia tensions

Mumbai

Gold and silver prices surged strongly as easing tensions in West Asia boosted market sentiment. On MCX, gold rose nearly 4 per cent to Rs 1,44,410 per 10 grams, while silver jumped around 6 per cent to Rs 2,14,500 per kg. Internationally, COMEX gold and silver also gained sharply. Analysts say gold may climb toward Rs 1,55,000 and silver toward Rs 2,40,000, with support levels holding. Gains followed reports of a US 15-point ceasefire proposal to Iran, plus deferment of potential military actions, although Iran's officials remain cautious on talks progress.

'This rapid expansion is set to attract a staggering investment of approximately Rs 1.5 lakh crore over the coming years'

India set for massive data center boom

MUMBAI

India is on the verge of a digital revolution, with its data center capacity expected to skyrocket to 4 gigawatts by 2030.

According to a new report by CareEdge Ratings, this rapid expansion is set to attract a staggering investment of approximately Rs 1.5 lakh crore over the coming years.

Currently, India's capacity sits at around 1.2 gigawatts, accounting for roughly 4% of the global market. While these numbers are growing, the amount of data space available per million internet users in India is still far below the global average. This gap signals a massive opportunity for future development as more people go online and businesses embrace the cloud.

Experts point to several key drivers behind this surge: a massive increase in digital activity, lower operational costs, and the rapid adoption of Artificial Intelligence (AI). While traditional cloud storage and corporate IT services are leading the charge today, AI is expected to be the main engine fueling the next phase of growth. In fact, the industry has already seen its capacity double between 2022 and 2025.

However, the path forward isn't without hurdles. Costs have jumped by 50 to 70 percent recently due to rising land prices and the need for advanced cooling systems. Investors are also putting more money into renewable energy to keep these centers sustainable. To succeed, experts say India must focus on building stronger power grids and managing project timelines efficiently to meet the world's growing hunger for data.

New tax cuts to support local co-ops

NEW DELHI

In a major move to boost rural incomes, the Indian government has announced a three-year tax exemption on dividend earnings for national cooperative federations. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman shared the update in the Lok Sabha, emphasizing that the relief is designed to directly benefit small-scale members and strengthen the nation's grassroots economy.

Cooperatives, alongside small businesses and farmers, are the backbone of job creation in India. By removing these tax burdens, the government hopes to encourage more citizens to join these organizations, which play a vital role in improving livelihoods across rural areas. The Minister highlighted that empowering these sectors is essential for achieving balanced growth that reaches every corner of the country.

Beyond cooperatives, the government introduced a new "safe harbour" rule for the booming data center industry. Indian companies providing services to international partners will now be allowed a fixed 15 percent profit margin on costs. This move aims to ensure genuine business operations while cracking down on the misuse of shell companies.

To make life easier for everyday businesses, the government is also simplifying the legal process. Penalties for minor technical mistakes will be replaced with simple fixed fees, and passenger rules at airports have been streamlined to reduce travel disputes. Sitharaman noted that the Centre has even increased spending on public welfare beyond its tax collections in some areas, proving a deep commitment to supporting key sectors and making it easier for everyone to do business.

Global leaders tackle surge of cheap imports

NEW DELHI

The European Union is taking a firm stand against a flood of low-priced goods from China that local leaders say is putting European businesses at risk.

This week, EU Trade Commissioner Maros Sefcovic will bring these urgent concerns to a major World Trade Organization meeting in Cameroon, calling for a total refresh of global commerce rules.

For years, the rapid growth of the Chinese economy has shifted how the world buys and sells. However, European officials argue that the old rulebook is no longer working. They are seeing a sharp rise in imports that are priced so low that local factories simply cannot compete. This "trade gap" has widened significantly, leaving European policymakers worried about the future of their own industries and workers.

The problem is fueled by global tensions elsewhere. When other countries, like the United States, put up trade barriers, many Chinese products get redirected toward Europe. This has created a record-breaking trade surplus for China while leaving European markets feeling overwhelmed. Sefcovic believes the current system fails to address unfair pricing and overproduction.

To fix this, the EU is pushing for a "new balance." They want faster ways to solve trade fights and better rules to ensure every country plays fair. As these talks begin, the goal is simple: protecting local jobs while keeping global trade healthy for everyone. It is a high-stakes effort to make sure that "cheap" goods do not come at too high a price for workers.

Fake fuel shortage rumors spark city chaos

HYDERABAD

Thousands of panicked motorists swarmed petrol stations across Hyderabad, triggered by false rumors of a fuel shortage linked to conflicts in West Asia. Despite the massive crowds and long lines, government officials and oil companies have confirmed there is absolutely no shortage of petrol or diesel in the state.

From Ameerpet to LB Nagar, major roads saw heavy traffic as cars, buses, and trucks queued for hours to fill their tanks. The sudden surge in customers forced some stations to temporarily put up "No Stock" signs simply because they could not pump fuel fast enough to meet the unexpected rush. Local leaders explained that this "artificial scarcity" is created only when everyone tries to buy fuel at the exact same time.

Marri Amarender Reddy, president of the Telangana Petroleum Dealers Association, assured the public that depots for HPCL, IOCL, and BPCL have plenty of supplies. He also warned citizens that hoarding fuel in cans is extremely dangerous and against safety laws. Government departments further confirmed that domestic LPG gas cylinders are also fully available and moving through regular supply chains without any delay.

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy is scheduled to meet with top officials later today to monitor the situation and ensure distribution remains steady. Authorities are urging the public to stay calm, stop panic buying, and trust official updates. They emphasized that if residents return to their normal buying habits, the long queues at the stations will vanish almost immediately.

Falling oil prices bring hope for economy

NEW DELHI

Global crude oil prices took a sharp dive as growing hopes for a ceasefire in West Asia calmed nervous markets. Brent crude fell significantly to $97.18 per barrel, while American oil prices dropped over 6 percent. This shift offers a breath of fresh air for the global economy after weeks of high tension.

For a country like India, which imports most of its fuel, this price drop is excellent news. Experts explain that when oil becomes cheaper, it helps lower the cost of living and reduces the national trade deficit. Specifically, a $10 drop in oil prices can noticeably cut inflation, making everyday goods more affordable for families. While the market remains a bit jumpy, analysts believe that if prices stay low, the Indian rupee will gain strength against the dollar.

The world's stock markets reacted to the news with a mix of surprise and excitement. While some markets in the United States saw small dips, Asian markets celebrated the news. In Japan and South Korea, stock indexes jumped by more than 3 percent as investors cheered the possibility of lower energy costs.

However, experts warn that we aren't out of the woods just yet. While the current trend is positive, any sudden change in global politics could send prices back up. For now, the focus remains on the ceasefire talks, as a peaceful resolution is the most reliable way to keep fuel prices stable and the global economy moving forward.

DEBT TRAP

Urgent reforms needed to save Pak economy

LAHORE

Financial experts are sounding a loud alarm, warning that Pakistan's economy is standing on shaky ground.

Without immediate and deep structural changes, the nation remains dangerously vulnerable to global market shifts. The primary concerns cited by analysts include a heavy reliance on expensive imported fuel and worryingly low financial reserves.

Recently, the government decided to hike taxes on high-quality fuel, specifically targeting luxury vehicle owners to raise quick revenue. While officials hope this move shields the general public from soaring costs, experts warn that this is merely a temporary fix. Global oil prices continue to climb due to ongoing tensions in the Middle East, and supply chain disruptions are expected to keep these costs high for the foreseeable future.

Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb has candidly admitted that "relying on hope" is no longer a viable strategy. He emphasized that the country needs practical, long-term solutions rather than short-term patches. Deep-seated issues, such as limited government funds and a lack of domestic production, still remain unaddressed.

Past efforts to save money, such as cutting fuel allowances or encouraging remote work, have seen very little success. Now, experts suggest that tougher, more politically difficult measures might be necessary. This could include forcing markets and businesses to close early to slash energy consumption. While these steps may be unpopular, they are increasingly seen as the only way to stabilize the economy and prevent a much larger financial crisis down the road.

Zoned-In Kohli Shines in RCB's Final Practice Ahead of Opener

BENGALURU

Virat Kohli looked in sublime touch as Royal Challengers Bengaluru wrapped up an intense training session at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium ahead of their Indian Premier League 2026 opener against Sunrisers Hyderabad.

The talismanic batter delivered another short yet impressive knock during a practice game, underlining his readiness for the new season. Though he had an early scare—edging a delivery from Jacob Duffy that was dropped near the boundary—Kohli quickly found his rhythm and showcased his trademark class.

Once settled, Kohli shifted gears effortlessly, playing elegant drives and flicks. He punished any loose deliveries, including a towering straight six off Duffy. One of the standout moments came against Rasikh Salam Dar, when Kohli advanced down the pitch and dispatched the ball over mid-wicket with authority. A signature on-drive soon followed, drawing admiration from those present.

His stay ended when he attempted an inside-out shot but found a fielder at mid-off, bringing a close to an otherwise fluent outing that will boost RCB's confidence heading into the tournament.

In contrast, Phil Salt struggled to get going on a sluggish surface, finding it difficult against the new-ball trio of Duffy, Abhinandan Singh and Dar. However, Duffy's probing spell offered a positive sign for RCB, especially amid uncertainty surrounding Josh Hazlewood's availability due to injury.

Among others, skipper Rajat Patidar and Devdutt Padikkal adopted a cautious approach, focusing on building their innings through strike rotation. Padikkal managed a six off Swapnil Singh before falling to a mistimed shot.

Earlier, Jacob Bethell and Jitesh Sharma spent time honing their skills with throwdowns.

RCB are set to take a brief break before resuming training, while Sunrisers Hyderabad are expected to begin their practice session at the venue soon. With Kohli appearing focused and in control, RCB will head into their opener with renewed optimism.

RCB-SRH Tickets Sold Out in Just Four Minutes

BENGALURU

Tickets for the opening Indian Premier League clash between Royal Challengers Bengaluru and Sunrisers Hyderabad at the iconic M Chinnaswamy Stadium were snapped up within four minutes of going on sale, underlining the franchise's unwavering fan base.

After weeks of uncertainty and delays, ticket sales for Saturday's high-profile encounter opened, only to sell out almost instantly. The frenzy reflects the massive anticipation among Bengaluru fans eager to witness top-tier cricket return to Chinnaswamy.

The overwhelming response comes despite a turbulent period for RCB over the past year, including criticism surrounding the handling of their trophy celebrations that tragically led to the loss of 11 lives. Yet, the incident appears to have done little to dent the loyalty of the franchise's supporters.

For many fans, the match represents more than just a season opener—it marks the return of elite cricket to their home ground after fears that RCB might have to relocate matches to other cities due to regulatory delays. The uncertainty had caused widespread disappointment among supporters who were eager to celebrate their team's recent success on home soil.

Members of prominent fan groups expressed both excitement and relief after confirmation that Chinnaswamy would host the matches. For them, the moment carried emotional significance, comparable to the joy of witnessing RCB lift their maiden title.

Warne's Smart Deal Set to Earn Family Rs 460 Cr

NEW DELHI

In New Delhi, the late Australian legend Shane Warne is set to leave his family an estimated Rs 460 crore windfall through a visionary deal with Rajasthan Royals. The franchise is reportedly being sold for $1.63 billion (around Rs 15,290 crore) to a US-based consortium led by Kal Somani, pending approval from the Board of Control for Cricket in India after the 2026 IPL season.

Warne, who joined the Royals in 2008 as captain, coach, and mentor after the 2006–07 Ashes, negotiated a unique contract combining salary and equity. He earned $657,000 annually along with a 0.75 percent ownership stake per season, building a 3 percent share over four years.

Originally bought for $67 million, the franchise's soaring valuation has turned Warne's stake into a massive financial success. The deal highlights his foresight and enduring legacy beyond cricket, benefiting his family long after his passing.

Iran War Fallout Forces PSL into Empty Stadiums, Reduced Format

ISLAMABAD

The ongoing Iran conflict 2026 has cast a long shadow over Pakistan's premier T20 tournament, forcing the Pakistan Super League into a restricted, fan-less format reminiscent of the COVID-19 era.

With matches set to begin at Lahore's Gaddafi Stadium, organisers have confirmed that no spectators will be allowed in stadiums due to soaring fuel prices and government advisories urging citizens to limit travel and remain indoors. The decision marks a significant setback for a league that has steadily rebuilt its popularity and scale in recent years.

The tournament, which usually spans multiple cities, will now be confined to just two venues—Lahore and Karachi—down from the originally planned six. Cities such as Rawalpindi, Faisalabad, Peshawar and Multan have been dropped to reduce logistical costs and operational demands during the ongoing crisis.

Pakistan Cricket Board chairman Mohsin Naqvi described the move as necessary under the circumstances, stating that it would be inappropriate to host large crowds while the country faces economic and mobility challenges. He acknowledged the decision was difficult but essential to ensure public safety and align with government directives. The absence of fans and opening ceremonies is a stark contrast to the league's usual festive atmosphere. For players and supporters alike, the situation evokes memories of pandemic-era bio-secure bubbles, where matches were played in silence, relying solely on television audiences for engagement. International cricketers, including Daryl Mitchell, expressed disappointment at missing out on playing in front of local crowds. Mitchell, who had fond memories of performing in Rawalpindi, said the empty stadiums would take some getting used to but hoped fans might return later in the tournament. Despite the limitations, the PSL remains a crucial sporting and commercial event in Pakistan, competing for attention alongside the Indian Premier League.

Joshna Chinappa Targets Asian Games Glory in Career's Final Phase

BENGALURU

Veteran Indian squash star Joshna Chinappa remains driven by ambition despite being in the twilight of her illustrious career, with her focus firmly set on making a strong impact at the upcoming Asian Games 2026. A stalwart of Indian squash for over two decades, the 39-year-old has been instrumental in elevating the sport's profile in the country alongside contemporaries like Saurav Ghosal and Dipika Pallikal Karthik. Turning professional in 2003, Chinappa has consistently represented India on the global stage with distinction.

Speaking during a promotional event in Bengaluru, Chinappa emphasised that her commitment to the sport remains as strong as ever, even as her approach has evolved with time. Currently ranked No. 72 in the world, she continues to be among India's top players, second only to rising star Anahat Singh.

Pant Should Bat at No.3, Says Faf du Plessis

Former Proteas skipper backs Pant to maximise impact with consistent approach

NEW DELHI

Former South Africa captain Faf du Plessis has backed Rishabh Pant to bat at No.3 for Lucknow Super Giants in the upcoming Indian Premier League season, stressing that the move could help the wicketkeeper-batter maximise his impact while improving consistency.

Pant, who experimented with multiple batting positions last season, found his best form at No.3, notably scoring an unbeaten 118 in LSG's final league match.

Du Plessis believes the numbers clearly support this position as the most effective for the dynamic left-hander. du Plessis suggested that Pant slotting in at No.3 would allow players like Nicholas Pooran to move to No.4, strengthening LSG's already formidable top order that includes Aiden Markram and Mitchell Marsh. Pant enters the new season under significant pressure after being acquired for a record ₹27 crore ahead of IPL 2025. His debut season as LSG captain, however, fell short of expectations, with the team finishing seventh and Pant managing just 269 runs in 13 innings at an average of 24.45.

Du Plessis highlighted that while Pant possesses immense natural talent, his T20 performances have not consistently reflected his ability. He described Pant as a "highlight player" who needs to transition into a more reliable, high-impact contributor.

The former Royal Challengers Bengaluru skipper emphasised the importance of having a clear game plan in T20 cricket. According to him, Pant often appears overly aggressive, attempting high-risk shots too frequently, which affects his overall output.

He noted that elite T20 batters typically operate with well-defined scoring areas and strategies, whereas Pant's approach can seem overly frantic at times. Despite possessing a wide range of shots, his strike rate of around 130 remains surprisingly modest.

Du Plessis advised Pant to curb excessive risk-taking and focus on playing according to the merit of each delivery. He stressed that developing consistency—performing at a 60–70 percent success level rather than occasional brilliance—would elevate Pant's effectiveness.

LSG begin their IPL 2026 campaign against Delhi Capitals on April 1, while the tournament opens with RCB facing Sunrisers Hyderabad in Bengaluru.

Faf Urges Smarter Pant Approach

Faf du Plessis urged Rishabh Pant to adopt a smarter approach in T20 cricket, emphasizing reduced risk-taking, better shot selection, and playing according to merit. He suggested targeting consistent 60–70 percent performances, which would improve reliability, enhance team impact, and ultimately make Pant a more effective and dependable match-winner overall.

Pacers' absence leaves KKR scrambling for balance ahead of crucial campaign

INJURY WOES DERAIL KKR'S IPL 2026 TITLE ASPIRATIONS

KOLKATA

Kolkata Knight Riders head into the Indian Premier League 2026 season with serious concerns as a spate of injuries to key pacers threatens to derail their campaign even before it begins.

With three IPL titles, KKR had assembled what appeared to be a championship-winning squad after last year's auction. However, a string of setbacks has disrupted their plans, leaving the team struggling to find the right balance.

The biggest blow comes from the absence of Harshit Rana, who has been ruled out of the entire tournament due to a knee injury. A crucial all-round contributor, Rana's ability to deliver with the ball and chip in with valuable lower-order runs made him a key figure in the lineup.

KKR's pace attack has been further weakened with Mustafizur Rahman unavailable, while Akash Deep and Matheesha Pathirana are also sidelined for significant periods. The absence of multiple fast bowlers has left the team with limited overseas bowling options, upsetting the squad's composition.

To counter this, KKR may rely heavily on their spin arsenal, led by Sunil Narine, Varun Chakravarthy and Anukul Roy. Their effectiveness, however, will depend largely on pitch conditions at home venues—something that did not favour them last season.

In batting, KKR boast significant firepower with players like Finn Allen, Cameron Green, Tim Seifert and Rovman Powell. Captain Ajinkya Rahane will look to anchor the lineup after an impressive previous season.

However, the team faces another challenge in settling their batting order, with multiple opening options creating selection dilemmas. Green, bought for Rs 25.2 crore, will be under pressure to replicate the impact once delivered by Andre Russell, though questions remain about his bowling workload.

Meanwhile, Rinku Singh could play a pivotal role if given more opportunities higher up the order, rather than being restricted to brief finishing roles.

Despite their strong batting depth, KKR's title hopes may ultimately hinge on how effectively they manage their depleted bowling resources in a demanding season.

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